

Cash boost for supporters club stalwart battling cancer

SADDLERS RALLY TO HELP ROYSTON

Report by Fiona Smith

KIND-HEARTED Saddlers fans have raised hundreds of pounds to help a popular fellow supporter who is battling cancer.

Royston Randle, the travel secretary for Walsall FC Supporters Club, has chronic myeloid leukaemia and an aggressive form of prostate cancer.

Unbeknown to Royston, his great niece Chantelle Walker launched a fundraiser appeal to raise £500 to buy him an electric riser chair. At the time she said: "He is finding it extremely difficult to get on and off his chair, as a once independent 70-year-old, this is causing him to feel down."

The appeal was launched around three weeks ago and when money started to come in she made further inquiries into purchasing a chair and discovered that, to properly meet Royston's needs, a bespoke chair was needed at around £3,000.

However, fundraising has already smashed through the £500 target with £580 in donations plus money donated by Walsall FC.

Club Secretary Daniel Mole contacted Chantelle and offered to donate money from the sale of the 50/50 tickets at the home game against Blackburn on Saturday.

Chantelle said: "They are sending a cheque for £130 this week. We also raised £285 in cash donations on Saturday and the Supporters Club are also doing a collection at their next open meeting on March 8."

She described the donations as 'amazing' and added: "Uncle Royston didn't know that I was setting up a fundraising page so he's been quite overwhelmed by all the lovely messages that he's received. Saddlers fans you're the best! Up The Saddlers!"

Among the well-wishers who have commented on the page is Walsall FC director Roy Whalley who said to Royston: "Best of luck with the radiotherapy. Banks's Stadium would not be the same without you on matchdays."

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chantelle-walker-3

PIZZA CASH TO HELP FAMILY OF TRAGIC MYLEE



Abdul Javad, owner of Napoli's Pizza shop, makes the first donation as part of a fundraising bid to help Mylee Billingham's family

A PIZZA shop is donating £1 from every delivery to the family of murdered eight-year-old Brownhills schoolgirl Mylee Billingham.

Napoli's Pizza Shop in Chase-town, will be running the fundraising scheme for one month with shop owner Abdul Javad taking £1 from his own pocket for every delivery ordered during that time.

Abdul, aged 36, said: "It's tragic what has happened and we would like to help the family anyway we can at this sad time. As much as

money can never change the situation, we hope it will help the family with financial pressures."

The idea was dreamed up by friend and colleague 45-year-old Raf. The father, who lives in Burntwood, said: "It hit me hard. It's bad enough that it's such a tragedy but when you have a daughter around the same age it hits you more."

"We went to put down flowers. You almost put yourself in that position. It must be really hard for her mum."

"Abdul has daughters too, age 12 and 6, so it really affected him too."

The High Street delivery store has set up a collection pot inside the shop and will also be giving out ribbons.

Raf added: "This will all come out of Abdul's pocket, people won't be paying £1 extra. For example, we had two delivery drivers on the Monday this week, and did 80 deliveries. So that would have been £80 that day."

● Campaign – Page 4



Mylee, who was eight

COUNCIL

Derelict pub plans set to be rejected

PLANS to build houses on a derelict pub car park are on course to be rejected.

Walsall Council's planning committee has been recommended to refuse proposals for the car park at the old Sneyd Inn in Bloxwich.

The plans to convert the site in Vernon Way were submitted in April with a decision due to be made today, Thursday.

The project would see four five-bedroom houses built.

It comes after plans to convert the former pub into a six-bedroom house were accepted last year.

A report says that the remote nature of the site has provided a neglected area which has been subject to dumping grounds, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

CRIME

£40k CCTV to stop raids at cemeteries

CCTV cameras will be installed at cemeteries after mourners were targeted by thieves. It follows reports of bags being snatched from people visiting graves at Fallings Heath Cemetery in Wednesbury.

Bereaved families raised concerns with Sandwell Council and called on bosses to improve security. The scheme is set to cost a total of £40,000. Deputy council leader Syeda Khatun said: "This is another example of the council listening to its residents and responding."

INVESTMENT

£8m lined up for 'deprived' areas

WALSALL Council is planning to help 'deprived' towns in the borough with a cash injection of £8 million to improve infrastructure.

Willenhall, Brownhills, Bloxwich and Darlaston will benefit from improvements to roads and footpaths – in a bid to attract more visitors. Walsall Council's Cabinet discussed the proposals last week.

● Pledges – Page 3

INSIDE

TEAM TEDDIE IS ON TARGET



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Ancient coin among haul in fatal raid



The 16th century coin

A GOLD coin dating back to the 16th century was among a hoard of valuable jewellery stolen in a violent burglary at a pensioner's home.

Arthur Gumbley was attacked during the burglary at his home in Endwood Drive in Little Aston, near Walsall, on November 21. He died three weeks later.

A murder investigation has since been launched and a 28-year-old man, Jimmy Connors, was arrested by West Yorkshire Police. Police are still looking for a person named as Tom Joseph Ward, 17. Staffordshire Police also put up an ap-

peal to find valuable items taken from Mr Gumbley's home.

They include a Henry VIII Angel gold coin, believed to have been forged between 1544 and 1547.

A women's gold necklace and bracelet, gold and silver rings and a silver men's Seiko watch with gold highlights are also still missing. A unique gun-shaped knife is also outstanding. Last month, police said a purse which belonged to Arthur's late wife had been recovered.

Det Insp Dan Ison, the senior investigating officer, said: "If we can return

any or all of the stolen items to this grieving family, it is at least some comfort that they have not lost everything in this terrible incident. And if we can secure evidence of where the items may have gone after the incident, or who may have handled them."

Crimestoppers launched a £10,000 reward last month for information which could lead to the conviction of Mr Gumbley's killers.

Anyone who can help should call police on 101 quoting incident number 828 of 21 November 2017.

M6 resurfacing work goes on despite cold

IT looks like a giant swimming pool being built in the middle of the M6.

But this is actually a new waterproof layer to help stop the motorway crumbling as sub-zero temperatures bite.

The blue layer in the picture on the right has been put down with a new road surface over the top to prevent problems caused by winter weather such as potholes.

The majority of work has been on the northbound carriageway of the M6 near junction 7 for Great Barr.

The condition of the carriageway surface has deteriorated as a result of one of the wettest years on record followed by a winter spell of falling temperatures.

This has resulted in water finding its way into the carriageway, freezing and then lifting and breaking up the road surface above it as it thaws.

Temporary

Motorists were once again able to use all three lanes on the M6 on Monday, said Highways England. The road now has three narrow lanes in operation for the morning traffic along with a temporary speed limit in place.

Replacement expansion joints will also be installed in the carriageway.

These are designed to allow movement within the structure and also add further water protection. The remainder of the essential work is taking place overnight while the road is at its quietest.

There were full overnight closures on the M6 northbound junction 7 to junction 8 from 10pm to 6am up until Sunday.

Meanwhile, a man suffered severe injuries after a collision on the M6 which shut the motorway for 11 hours.

Motorists faced long delays in the morning rush hour on Monday, after the incident reportedly involving a van, three cars and a pedestrian. It happened just to the south of junction 13 close to Cannock and affected both carriageways.



A new waterproof layer is put down designed to stop pot holes forming Pictures by Highways England



Diggers pull up the motorway surface for the works



Laying the new surface over the waterproof material

McDonald's franchisee adds more restaurants

AN ambitious McDonald's franchisee has snapped up two restaurants in Walsall for a new wave of expansion after completing a £10 million investment programme across the West Midlands.

The two additional sites will see Wright Restaurants expand to 17 restaurants. It has just launched a newly refurbished McDonald's outlet in Solihull which is one of five opened in the last three months.

McDonald's restaurant franchisee Douglas Wright has re-opened the Solihull outlet after funding support from Royal Bank of Scotland enabled significant refurbishment with a complete refit and refresh of the previous outlet.

This comes on the back of a period of significant growth for Wright Restaurants which also recently acquired two McDonald's restaurants in Walsall located in Rushall and Reedswood which have also been funded by the bank.

Mr Wright set up his first outlet in Lichfield in May 2003 and today operates 17 sites. He was also successful at the Sutton Coldfield and Lichfield & Tamworth Chambers' New Year Business Dinner and Awards in January where Wright Restaurants was awarded Business of the Year.

He also won the Sutton Coldfield Chamber President's Award in recognition of his work in the community.

Entertainment gets X Factor

X Factor stars wowed the crowds in the West Midlands with a red-hot night of entertainment.

Contestants from the latest edition of the show - including winners Rak-Su - packed out the Genting Arena.

Rocker Kevin Davy White was on fire, proving a big hit with the thousands of fans who streamed into the venue near the NEC in Birmingham to cheer on the show stars.

Among those taking to the stage were Grace Davies, Kevin Davy White, Matt Linnen, Lloyd Macey, The Culkelvins and Sean & Conor Price.

Rak-Su, from north London, won the competition ahead of Grace Davies.

They were mentored by Simon Cowell, and are just the second group to win the show - after Little Mix.

Pub chain smashes £15 million target

THE JD Wetherspoon pub chain has hit a £15 million fundraising target for cancer charity CLIC Sargent. Pubs across the country have been raising funds for the charity since 2002.

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Velodrome campaign is on track, led by Morris

A BLACK Country MP is leading a cross-party campaign for a velodrome to be in place for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. It voices the fear that due to the lack of a 250m velodrome in the West Midlands that, come the Games, indoor cycle events will be held in London.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis is spearheading the initiative involving MPs from across the West Midlands.

He has written a letter which has also been signed by Dudley MPs Ian Austin and Mike Wood, Emma Reynolds, for Wolverhampton North East, Andrew Mitchell for Sutton Coldfield and Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy.

Addressed to Julie Harrington, the chief executive officer of British Cycling, it complains that the West Midlands does not possess a single banked cycle race track.

Mr Morris points out that the nearest cycle track to Birmingham is Manor Abbey, in Halesowen, an outdoor track which is now 70 years old. While the venue was a 'superb' facility promoting grassroots track cycling, the sport was in urgent need of a modern indoor track.

"As the region's MPs we feel it would be a missed opportunity if cycling is simply to be sent to London, rather than fostering the talent we have in the West Midlands," said Mr Morris.

Drama troupe in Godber comedy

CHARLEMONT Dramatic Society will be presenting its spring production Salt of the Earth, by John Godber, at the Theatre, Gayton Road Community Centre, Gayton Road, in West Bromwich, from Wednesday May 2 to 5.

The play is a gritty but frequently funny story following the lives of two sisters and their families from a Yorkshire mining community over more than four decades, telling the story of their joys and tragedies.

Visit the website www.thecads.weebly.com for more information.

Tickets, priced £8, are available from Sylvia Hill, 11 Fairfield Court, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 6AJ. Telephone: 0121 357 4169 or e mail hilld28@sky.com.

Factory petition

A PETITION against a railway sleeper factory planned by Network Rail for Bescot Railway sidings in Friar Park, Wednesbury, has reached almost 4,000 signatures. It is to be handed in to Sandwell council.



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MP pushes for debate on speeders call



Mr Hughes with the petition

A WALSALL MP has called for ministerial answers over a campaign demanding for longer sentences for killer drivers. Eddie Hughes led a 30-minute debate sparked by the Stop the Speeders campaign at Westminster Hall on Tuesday.

The campaign is calling on the Government to push ahead with proposed legalisation from the Ministry of Justice to increase the maximum sentence for killer drivers.

Currently, people convicted of causing death by dangerous driving can get a maximum 14 years'

in prison. The MoJ want to extend that to a life sentence. The campaign by the Chronicle and the Express & Star was launched on the back of two people being jailed for less than eight years each for killing victims on Black Country roads.

Speaking on Monday, Mr Hughes said: "As an MP, I get the opportunity to call a debate and a Government minister must attend to provide a response." The two cases which sparked the campaign were of Craig Edwards and Kade Scrivens, jailed for killing behind while the wheel.

Edwards, aged 29, of Cumberland Road in Walsall, was speeding when he killed grandfather John Hickinbottom in Walsall last June. He was over the drink-drive limit.

On the same day of the sentencing, Scrivens, 24, of Booth Street, Handsworth, was jailed for killing Nicholas Harrison, 59. Scrivens lost control at a roundabout in Darlaston while speeding and hit Mr Harrison on November 22, before fleeing the scene. The petition is available at www.change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-killer-drivers-should-have-stiffer-sentences

Chief pledges £8m to boost 'deprived' towns

'DEPRIVED' towns in Walsall are set to get a cash injection of £8 million to make changes 'paramount to our future'.

Willenhall, Brownhills, Bloxwich and Darlaston will benefit from improvements to roads and footpaths – in a bid to attract more visitors to the areas, and in recognition that outlying communities may have missed out on investment in the past.

Walsall Council's Cabinet discussed the proposals last week as a way to boost the local economy by improving the look of the towns.

It is set to be the first investment into the separate towns' roads and footpaths in more than a decade.

Bosses will aim to get traffic moving through each town centre in order to get motorists close to shops.

Change

Council leader, Sean Coughlan, said: "The real issue is the investment into district centres such as Willenhall, Brownhills, Bloxwich and Darlaston, which are deprived areas that have had no investment from the council for years.

"It is a real change in emphasis for Walsall Council that has not been seen in 20 years. We are investing in district centres that desperately need support because we need to change the attitude about these towns.

"Wolverhampton Council always support their towns, such as Wednesfield, which are on the border with us and make us look bad so we aim to get our towns thriving again. I am pleased that we are having a plan coming into fruition and in these district centres where it is paramount to our future.

"I am hoping the opposition realise the difficult task we have had I am hoping we can get our budget through and we can our move."

The plans were due to be discussed as part of the budget at yesterday's full council meeting.

The Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling and Metro Mayor Andy Street are due to visit Willenhall next month to talk through proposals.

Players on target to help Teddie



Teddie with mum Zoe Phillips, aunt Kelly Knox and footballers at the fundraising event held at Oak Park

A CAMPAIGN to help a one-year-old boy with a rare life-limiting illness complete a bucket list received a huge boost from a fundraising day.

The family of little Teddie Phillips, from Walsall, are planning several treats every child should enjoy but that he only has a short time to experience. Through the Teddie's Smile campaign, they are hoping to give him his first day at school, take him swimming and treat him to a movie day at the cinema. He has already been able

to take his first trip to the beach. Parents Zoe and Paul's world was shattered when Teddie was diagnosed with Krabbe disease, a rare illness which attacks the nervous system, shortly before Christmas after developing a cough.

There is thought to be only one other child in the West Midlands with the condition.

An event at Walsall Wood FC at the weekend, featuring a football tournament and raffle, raised £2,700. Walsall FC helped to boost

the total by donating four match tickets and a football to be raffled off.

Teddie is expected to lose his sight and hearing as his condition gets progressively worse and his family are determined to give him as much joy as they can before then.

Aunt Kelly Knox, aged 33, from Coalpool, said: "At the moment the only thing Teddie can do is smile and blink so we are doing everything we can to get him to smile."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Voice your hope to find stardom

WANNABE pop stars can put their singing skills to the test when The Voice auditions return to the Black Country. The TV singing contest's first stage will be held at the Cuban Exchange in Exchange Street, Wolverhampton on Wednesday, March 7.

Jason Jones, from Burntwood and who works at the RAC Centre in Wednesbury, reached the semi-finals of last year's series. People attending the auditions in Wolverhampton are asked to prepare one or two songs with a backing track, an instrument or acapella. The event is only open for over 18s. To book a slot email bashfunk@gmail.com

Two music icons for price of one

A NEW theatre show merges two musical icons. You've Got A Friend is a new concert-style event based on the friendship and musical relationship of Carole King and James Taylor.

It features classics such as I Feel The Earth Move, Fire and Rain and You've Got A Friend. International performer Kyla Brown will play Carole King while singer-songwriter Stef-fan James is James Taylor.

It will be staged on April 7 at Stafford Gatehouse. Tickets are £23, available from the box office, 01785 619080 or via staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk.

Opening due as store splits up

SIX jobs have been created after a furniture and bed shop split into two stores at a Black Country retail park.

Bensons for Beds and Harveys have split into separate branches at the Gallagher Shopping Park in Wednesbury.

On Saturday, an open event takes place at Bensons for Beds.

It will be on from 10am to 1pm and will feature Nikky Smedley, best known for her role as LaLa in The Teletubbies.

The event will be hosted in the kids section of the Wednesbury store.

Start of roadworks lasting six weeks

DELAYS are expected as roadworks have got underway on the A452 in Stonnall for six weeks.

Lazy Hill Road, heading out from Walsall to Stonnall Walsall will be closed at the junction with the A452 Chester Road for 24 hours a day for gas main renewal work.

It is being carried out by Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd on behalf of Cadent Gas. The road is expected to be reopened by April 8.

COUNTY NEWS

Sabbath rocker to host charity lunch

BLACK Sabbath legend Tony Iommi is hosting an exclusive lunch to raise money for a new hospital cancer centre.

The event will take place on April 20 where the rock guitarist will share stories from his life and career, touring the world with one of the biggest bands of all time. He will be raising funds for the Solihull Hospital and Heartlands Hospital charities for a new cancer centre at Solihull Hospital. The lunch will be held at the Opus restaurant in Birmingham.

Tickets are £100 each or £950 for a table of 10. Tables can be booked by calling 0121 371 4852.

Maternity quiz to boost care

HEALTH bosses have said women who gave birth at a hospital during either January or February could receive a survey asking about their care.

Mothers who gave birth at Russells Hall Hospital could be surveyed in April about care they received.

The National Maternity Survey, which is being run by the Care Quality Commission, will ask women about their experiences of antenatal care, childbirth and postnatal care.

The results will provide the the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust with feedback to help improve quality of care and the experience of women using maternity services.

Nature reserve volunteers call

VOLUNTEERS are needed to maintain a nature reserve managed by members of a wildlife trust. The Devil's Spittleful, near West Midlands Safari Park at Bewdley is a heathland reserve and gained its name because folklore states that it is where the Devil struck his spade in the ground.

The next work party takes place on March 10 from 9am and the group meets at Blackstone car park. People should wear sturdy footwear and take gardening gloves, food and drink.

Books, CDs and DVDs at exchange session

A CHARITY in Walsall which works with the over-50s age group is holding an exchange event to mark World Book Day, which is today, Thursday.

Residents will be able to swap books, CDs and DVDs at the Community Engagement Centre in Ford Street, Pleck, from 10am to 2pm.

Visitors will be able to meet new people and meet local author and guest speaker, Lucy Onions.

Church booked up to keep readers happy

A HOUSING Association has helped to keep a Walsall community reading following the closure of its library.

When the Beechdale estate's library was forced to close due to council funding cuts last year, colleagues from Friendship Care and Housing (FCH) stepped in to help.

The housing provider's Community Champion, Jemma Betts, alongside other members of staff and volun-

teers from the local church, created The Community Book Swap, ensuring the estate's bookworms can continue to enjoy their favourite page-turners.

The Book Swap is based at the St Chad's Church Hall on Edison Road and open to the community every Saturday lunchtime between 1 and 2pm.

For a donation of just £1, visitors can borrow a maximum of three books, swapping them for different

titles once they've finished reading.

Explaining how the idea came about, Jemma – herself a resident of the estate – said: "I know of a number of isolated people on the estate who won't go out of Beechdale and so when our library was closed, I was concerned for them as they no longer had access to books.

"I'm a mum of two young girls myself and I was concerned for children

like them, who loved visiting the library and enjoying the stories that were available from there."

Jemma hopes the Book Swap will become a hub for the community, with plans to open it to residents during weekdays.

To donate books to The Community Book Swap, please contact Jemma on 0300 123 1745 or email jemma.betts@longhurst-group.org.uk.

18-month delay for Junction 10 scheme

By Alex Ross

A CONGESTION-busting revamp of Junction 10 of the M6 will not start for at least another 18 months, highways bosses have said.

The multi-million pound revamp of the busy junction was unveiled by Highways England and Walsall Council two years ago.

A planning application was submitted last year and a potential starting date for work was given for the end of this year. However, Highways England has said construction work on the scheme will not begin until late next year or early 2020.

It comes after Walsall Council indicated the work could start this year.

The revamp will see two new four-lane bridges built at the junction, increasing the capacity to 10,500 vehicles an hour. It currently serves 8,000. It will take around two years to complete.

A spokesman for Highways England said: "In our Roads Investment Strategy optimisation announcement last year, we said that M6 Junction 10 was going to come forward by 9-12 months, by late 2019 early 2020. This is still the case. Currently the scheme is in the planning process and awaiting planning consent."

The start of work will follow the completion of a project of repairs at the Oldbury Viaduct on the M5, between junctions 1 and 2. This is due to finish during the Spring of 2019.

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership board member Ninder Johal said: "We would obviously want the M6 Junction 10 scheme to start sooner, but having the two motorway schemes in the Black Country could cause even more misery for motorists."

The existing bridges at the junction will continue to be used while the new bridges are built.

Love at first sight for diamond couple



Celebrations time for Marjorie and William Kelly, as they prepare for their diamond wedding anniversary

A COUPLE who first bumped into each other after separate nights out at a youth club and cinema are getting ready to celebrate 60 years of wedded bliss.

Marjorie, aged 77, and Bill Kelly, 80, from Walsall, will celebrate 60 years of marriage today, Thursday. Bill was 18 when he first met Marjorie, who was 15 at the time, while he returned from a youth club in Stafford Street, Walsall.

Mr Kelly said: "I was coming from the youth club and she was coming from the pictures with a friend and we got talking."

"I asked to take her home and she said yes and we went from there. It was love at first sight, definitely."

"I said 'meet me the next night' and we

did and I took her to the Gaumont picture house in Walsall and the next night we went to the town hall to dance. We love each other now like we did then. It's fantastic."

The couple have four children, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grand children. They are going to Salento at the end of March – a place where Marjorie has always wanted to go – after their four children paid for the trip.

Mr Kelly said the secret to their happy marriage was that they 'pull together, work together, trust each other and love each other'. Julie Petty, William and Marjorie's daughter, said: "It's just amazing because 60 years is a milestone."



The couple on their big day

MPs across the region back knives campaign

MPS from across the Black Country have thrown their backing behind a campaign calling for tougher knife crime sentences. Since January 1, there have been 21 serious incidents involving knives across the region – five of which saw people killed.

Official figures show the number of deaths caused by knives across the region has risen from 13 in 2015 to 23 last year – a rise of 77 per cent.

This outbreak of violence has sparked the Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star to launch a petition urging Prime Minister Theresa May and Home Secretary Amber Rudd to bring in mandatory prison sentences for anyone caught in possession of an offensive weapon.

So far around 1500 people have signed the change.org petition.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden urged the Prime Minister to introduce tougher sentences for knife possession. He signed the Express & Star's petition and said: "I totally support the Express and Star's campaign. It is completely heartbreaking to see young lives cut short through appalling knife crime."

"We have had terrible murders locally and others around the country in recent weeks. I support the Home Secretary and the Government taking a tougher stand against the carrying and use of knives."

Eddie Hughes, Conservative MP for Walsall North, and Wolverhampton North East's Labour MP Emma Reynolds have already thrown their support behind the campaign. To sign the petition visit www.change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-knife-possession-should-have-stiffer-sentences

£1m cannabis plants recovered

POLICE uncovered £1 million worth of cannabis after conducting a raid in Smethwick.

The haul of plants was uncovered from a farm on Rolfe Street last Wednesday. Police described the set-up as a 'large industrial sized cannabis factory'.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Enquiries remain on-going and anyone with information is asked to call police on 101, quoting log 703 of 21 February."

Pictures taken from the scene shows dozens of cannabis plants lined up rows. Lighting equipment and what appeared to be ventilation tubes were seen inside the premises.

Elsewhere in the Black Country officers uncovered 198 plants following a raid at an address in Dudley.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Machete seized in town centre

A 14-INCH machete was discovered in Walsall town centre as part of a police crackdown on knife crime.

It was seized along with a friction lock baton and various arrests were made by West Midlands police as a result on Friday when there were stop and search powers in place along with a dispersal order.

The crackdown comes as there have been four fatal stabbings in the last 12 months including eight-year-old Mylee Billingham in Brownhills and nineteen-year-old Rezwan Ali at a house party in Willenhall in January alone.

As part of the crackdown, police seized 39 knives during the week-long operation Sceptre.

Brewers Fayre in Isabella effort

BREWERS Fayre will be raising money to get a young girl with cancer to America for potentially life-saving treatment.

The branch at Premier Inn at Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, will be raising money to help Isabella Lyttle, aged 10, who recently wrote a book.

They will be selling her book and are holding a host of events including quizzes to raise the money and half will go to Isabella while the other half will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Anyone who wants to stay up to date with their fundraising can add Walsall Brewers as a friend on Facebook.

Sponsorship deal for cycle festival

A STAFFORDSHIRE cycling festival has been given a sponsorship boost.

Cycle lube manufacturer FUCHS Silkolene is the official sponsor for Ride Staffs, which holds four major sportive events around the county in the months of March, April, July and September.

It kicks off with the 41 and 30-mile Primavera at Sugnal Walled Garden on March 4 which is followed by Spring Forward in Uttoxeter on April 8. The Staffordshire Cycling Festival is in Stafford on July 22 Go to ride-staffs.co.uk for more information.

Abbey thoughts for rambling group

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers head to Halesowen for a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday.

'Manor Abbey Walk' is a walk on field paths and part of the Monarch's Way with lots of styles

Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leader on 01922 642597 or 07890 816 841.

Vaz attacks children's services black hole

VALERIE Vaz has accused ministers of failing to address a £2 billion black hole in children's social care funding.

The Walsall South MP said she was 'alarmed' that the Government was not providing local authorities with enough money for crucial services.

It comes after MPs gave the green light to the local government finance settlement for next year, which included an extra £150 million for adult social care.

Labour MP Ms Vaz, who voted against the settlement, said: "The Government has failed to address the funding gap for children's social care which will be £2bn by 2020."

"The LGA has said that over the last 10 years, there has been a 124 per cent rise in the number of inquiries where local authorities believe a child may be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, and the number of children needing child protection plans has increased from 26,400 to more than 50,000 over the same period - an increase of more than 23,000 children."

She added: "I am alarmed that the Government is not providing local authorities with money desperately needed for local services."

Firm's cash boost for pet hospital

A PET hospital in Wolverhampton has received a £1,000 donation from a local housebuilder.

Persimmon Homes West Midlands, also based in the city, donated the money to the Wolverhampton PDSA Pet Hospital through its community champions scheme.

The builder chose the charity to benefit from its monthly match-funded donation.

Pet charity PDSA provide vet treatment to sick and injured pets, costing £60 million a year to provide the service nationwide.

Hotspot for dog mess is revealed

A WARD in Wolverhampton has been named as the city's dog fouling hotspot. A total of 28 reports have been made about irresponsible dog walkers in St Peter's ward, which includes parts of Whitmore Reans and Dunstall, so far during 2017/18.

Figures showed differing report rates in parts of the city. Bilston East and Ettingshall were next on the list with 19 each, while there were 13 reports in Graiseley.

There has not been a single report in Wednesfield North since April.

Third birthday for charity partnership



Greg, John and Pops dishing out food

A CHARITABLE partnership which is helping to feed, clothe and support homeless and vulnerable people across the West Midlands, has marked its third anniversary.

The relationship between HomeServe and the Midland Langar Seva Society was launched three years ago after a chance conversation between HomeServe call centre worker Bhupinder 'Pops' Heer and the Walsall-based home assistance provider's chief executive Greg Reed.

Since then hundreds of HomeServe staff have given more than 4,000

hours of their time to the cause, delivered more than 28,000 meals, handed out 23,000 samosas and 500 sleeping bags, and helped raise £12,000.

HomeServe has also now donated two of its red vans to help volunteers transport essential food and clothing to thousands of homeless people and others who have needed short-term support across the region.

Last week HomeServe staff - including Mr Reed and brand director John Greaves - joined Pops and the MLSS team at a feed in Birmingham city centre as they handed out hun-

dreds of meals. They also invited the MLSS team to HomeServe's Walsall headquarters for a special cake-cutting ceremony and birthday party.

Pops said: "I can still remember the day when Jagjit Kaur, Heather Kaur and I met Greg Reed and told him all about MLSS. Since that day three years ago, the help and support we've received has been unbelievable."

"HomeServe has donated two vans, which help us so much and mean we are now able to take our tables and food to the feeds easily. Each morning I go out and serve breakfast for

Killer who left body of mother for weeks jailed

A MAN who continued to live in his mother's house for weeks while she lay dead upstairs has been jailed for 12 years.

Beryl Hammond's body was discovered by police who went to check on her as she had not been seen for some time.

Her son Darren Hammond, aged 41, answered the door to officers, who noticed a strong smell coming from inside the house, and told them she was upstairs sleeping.

A post-mortem examination was carried out but the result was inconclusive due to the level of decomposition but tests showed Beryl, 81, had 10 broken ribs which were not explained by the position of her body, which was found at the house in Ebrook Road, Sutton Coldfield, in August last year. Police said Beryl had suffered 'years of abuse' at the hands of her son, who was jailed after being found guilty of manslaughter at Birmingham Crown Court.

Abuse

The jury heard the pair had a turbulent relationship. Hammond had been arrested on three previous occasions after Beryl reported that he had assaulted her or was behaving violently but the mother would always retract her complaints and take her son back in. She also told neighbours and her bank manager that her son would assault her and that she was scared of him.

Det Insp Caroline Corfield, from West Midlands Police, said: "He disassociated himself from his mother's death initially claiming to have no knowledge of it until police officers entered her bedroom and discovered her body."

"A series of messages sent from Darren to a girlfriend demonstrated that he was becoming increasingly angry and frustrated with his mother in the months before his arrest. On July 19, he referred to his mother in messages for the last time."

DI Corfield added: "He expected the court to find it acceptable that he could live in a small house for many weeks with the decomposing body of his mother without realising she was dead. The truth is Darren concealed the death of his mother in an attempt to escape justice."

Care home bought by mystery buyer



The Orchard Manor care home in Walsall which was sold before going to auction

A MYSTERY buyer has purchased a Walsall care home just one day before it was due to go to auction.

The Orchard Manor in Slaney Road was urgently shut down at the end of last year, after Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspectors dubbed it 'dirty' and 'harmful' to residents.

Its closure came after a surprise visit in October 2017.

The 30-bedroom home was set to go under the hammer at an event on Wednesday being hosted by Cottons Chartered Surveyors, but a member of staff said it was snapped up just one day before by a mystery buyer.

She said the firm was unable to disclose any further details, including how much the home was purchased for.

The care home, which inspectors reported was 'dirty and smelt offensive', was expected to be reached between £720,000 and £770,000.

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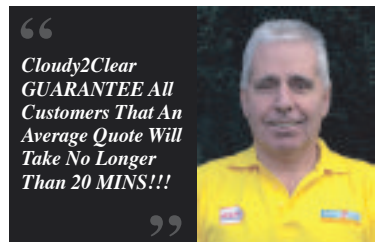
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Confession over my choice on TV viewing

WHILE searching through the multitude of television channels looking for anything, just anything that might be vaguely palatable to watch, I stumbled across a repeat of a Channel 4 series called It Was Alright In the 70s.

Now I know I'm probably a little behind the curve on this one, but I really don't watch much TV these days. There's just too many talent shows, celebrities-making-idiots-of-themselves shows, chat shows and never-ending gritty crime dramas about Sarah Lancashire mumbbling into a shaky camera to make it worthwhile.

Anyway, for those not familiar with the format, It Was Alright in the 70s centres around paid-up members of the liberal elite, plus a handful of comedians no-one has ever heard of wearing loud shirts, repeatedly putting their head in their hands at the content of television made in the 1970s. The Sweeney, Carry On Films, Top of the Pops, all came in for a good kicking, along with various public safety information films which might be offensive to Generation Snowflake. Even an ATV news interview with Dave Hill from Slade was thrown in for some reason.

What amused me though is what the likely motives were of those who watched the show. Now I don't doubt for one moment that the people behind the programme thought it would be to hear David Aaronovitch's observations on how much more enlightened society has become compared to 40-odd years ago. But I can't help but think most just tuned in to see a few clips from Confessions of a Window Cleaner.

□ □ □

RANK stupidity. Not fair to the fans. Nearly a fortnight later the tabloids are still having a field day about the escapades of West Bromwich Albion stars in Barcelona. What nobody has so far revealed is the make of the taxi they are alleged to have snaffled. Was it a Ford? Good chance, or maybe a Peugeot, VW, or Audi. I'll wager though that it was nothing with the Mercedes badge. No way. That's the one with three points.

□ □ □

DONALD Trump has come in for stick for suggesting teachers should get paid extra if they carry pistols to protect pupils from gun maniacs.

Thankfully, that is probably not necessary here but it has given me an idea on tackling the menace of anti-social behaviour. Equip dinner ladies with Tasers, the little darlings will think twice about dropping litter and doing graffiti.

Problem with America is too many guns not too few



Jeremy Corbyn – I don't believe for a moment that he was any sort of spy



Detective Kip Glaspie (Carey Mulligan) a former Olympic pole vaulter. Really?



Haunted for days on end by name of Australian jockey, Scobie Breasley

Arming teachers is not the answer

BEFORE the bodies had even been buried after the Florida school massacre, some gun enthusiasts were claiming that, if only the teachers had been armed, the gunman could have been killed before he killed anyone. What hope can there be for people who genuinely believe that the problem is not that America has too many guns (last count about 300 million), but too few? And, hell, why stop with arming the teachers? The kids can only be truly safe when every dinner lady has a .44 Magnum. God Bless America.

DID we all notice in Endeavour (ITV) that Morse visited a motel called Crossroads in a village called Kings Oak and the cleaner was a Mrs T? Next week: mass murder in the village of Trumpton – six firemen and a miller in the frame.

UNDERSTANDING weather-related headlines. "Beast from the East brings Siberian snow-bomb nightmare" = It will be a tad chilly next week.

MATHS for beginners. A reader reports buying one item for £5 and another for £4. The shop assistant used a calculator to add them up.

ON Wednesday the BBC finally reported on the Corbyn/spy story. Even so, cynics will have noticed that the theme of Thought for the Day on the Today programme (Radio 4) was Silence is Golden. For me, the most disappointing moment of the Beeb's non-coverage of the story came when the Voice of America website asked: "Was Britain's Labour Leader a Communist Spy?" Was anyone else reminded of

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



the 1936 Abdication Crisis when King Edward's affair with Mrs Simpson was the talk of American newspapers but British media conspired to hush it up? I don't believe for a moment that Corbyn was any sort of spy but we live in an age when people are called to account for their deeds of 20 or 30 years ago. If hindsight applies to ancient financial or sexual judgments, then why not political judgments, too?

NO surprises in this week's report in the Lancet linking heavy drinking with dementia; a pickled brain is never going to be a healthy brain. On the other hand, another report by scientists in California, also this week, suggests a couple of glasses of wine a day will help you live to see 90. I am reminded of a Scottish colleague who said this about whisky: "If we could just figure out how not to drink too little or too much, we'd live for ever." Research continues.

THE trouble with names is that they can become earworms. You hear them once and then cannot get them out of your mind. I recall one time when I was haunted for days on end by an Australian jockey, Scobie Breasley, Scobie Breasley, Scobie Breasley. Dammit. . .

WHILE it's good to see academics support-

ing Briefings for Brexit, a website devoted to the unsung (some would say stifled) benefits of quitting the EU, they face an uphill battle. For this is not merely an argument about politics, economics or any other lecture-theatre subject. It goes deep into the human spirit. Just as some infants depend on a comfort blanket, so some adults need a catastrophe blanket. Their natural mind-set is to believe they are on the brink of Armageddon. I bet some of those panicking about Brexit were the ones who, over the years, have made themselves sick with worry about nuclear annihilation, DDT poisoning, the coming ice age (remember that?), global warming and, in the past few months, plastic pollution. The hugely intelligent men and women behind Briefings for Brexit may make a good case for quitting. But they will never turn pessimists into optimists.

EVERY fictional detective needs a back story, and the wackier the better. So we see tees in wheelchairs or with a drink problem, suffering opium addiction, heavily pregnant, drop-dead glam or plump and mummy, or even haunted by a dead partner. In the new BBC cop series Colateral, Detective Kip Glaspie (Carey Mulligan) turns out to have been a former Olympic pole vaulter before joining the police. Now, that's original. Goodness only knows how they'll work pole-vaulting into a storyline but I wouldn't mind betting that the final episode involves a chase, a high fence and a clothes prop. Why do I keep thinking of Norman Wisdom?

TALKING POINT



Cheers! Thank you for the music . . .

I WONDER how many people realise how blessed we are with live music venues in this area. I must admit it was not something I had actually considered until the other night.

We were at the Robin 2 in Bilston, a venue we love, to see the tribute group Jean Genie. We had seen them before, but always a testament to how good an act is if you want to see them again – and again.

Anyway I digress, when we were there watching the group a lovely lady next to me commented: "We are so lucky to have such music venues close at hand."

I thought of her words and yes she was right. Whatever your musical tastes there is something to suit. From jazz, rock, folk and soul, we are blessed.

I spoke to colleagues and they all reeled off groups they had seen at Wolverhampton's Civic and Slade Rooms over the years. The Civic has been closed for a refurb – and is now not due to reopen for some time – but has enjoyed a wealth of famous names over the years.

In its absence there are plenty of pubs around which give an audience to up-and-coming local bands. Nothing better than sitting in the pub, drink in hand, and listening to live music. Some may moan that they can't hear each other speak – easy answer to that, find somewhere else to drink!

Colleagues rattled off a number of venues that they have enjoyed over the years. Such as The Trumpet in Bilston, the nickname for The Royal Exchange. Jazz started in the late 50s-early 60s and can still be heard these days on a 'pay-what-you-like' basis.

Over to Aldridge and The Arena which holds live performances, covering the decades from the 1960s through to the present day and Cannock where regulars at The Station can enjoy live music.

In Wolverhampton smaller venues include The Slade Rooms, which replaced the much-missed Little Civic, and The Newhampton Arts Centre which hosts up-and-coming indie rock outfits and big names from the folk circuit.

Down the road and Birmingham offers a variety of gigs, ranging from the mega-stars at Birmingham and Genting Arenas, to an array of acts in the multiple rooms at the O2 Academy and Institute.

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Commissioner en route to capitulation

DAVID Jamieson's surrender. Reading the recent article in which the West Midlands crime commissioner supports the free provision of cocaine to drug users fills me with disappointment and fear.

Disappointment that the person elected to uphold what is left of an almost non-existent organisation for public protection (the police) chooses to take the first step along the road to total capitulation. Fear because he, as well as everyone else who has no vested interest in providing illegal substances for the increasing amounts of drug users, knows it's not the answer.

The level of drug-related crime will not reduce it will just mean that there will be one less charge sheet to fill in when they have to arrest the next drug-induced driver whose selfish actions have devastated some family.

He states several reasons, one of which being the financial implications on the police budget. But, passing the financial burden over to the NHS and supporting the legalisation of such a blight on any community is in my opinion a criminal act in itself.

D BAKER
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

May and co should stop pussy-footing around

A TV news bulletin showed Theresa May's return to this country with statements made that she is aiming for a clean and complete break when eventually we leave the EU. This was supported by the majority of Theresa May's cabinet members, but there's always one!

This person states that he thinks we should, but stay as close to the EU as possible. A complete clean break is what the Brexiteers voted for and the sooner the better. Stop pussy-footing

around and stop the daily drain of millions of pounds still being paid by this country to the EU.

Pull the rug now and let's start paddling our own canoe as soon as possible. We can get the inevitable teething troubles out the way and be welcomed with open arms as a truly free nation. There is a big world out there, waiting in the wings, outside the confines of the EU.

PAULINE POOLE
Willenhall

Questions on centre are needed

THE Walsall North MP is right to be asking serious questions about the borrowing of £13.8m by the Labour-controlled Walsall Council for the flawed purchase of the Saddlers Shopping Centre.

The Council's attempt to 'draw down the shutters' and deny the MP the information he quite rightly seeks, suggests that the council has something to hide.

At the private meeting where the decision was made, there was no mention, in written reports or otherwise of the £2m-plus loss the Saddlers Centre had made the previous year... so can we assume that the councillors making the decision to borrow and purchase were blissfully unaware of the state of the finances surrounding the centre or did some members and officers know about this?

I hope that the MP doggedly pursues this and that concerned Walsall borough councillors, do likewise. I also hope that the MP for Walsall South, in whose constituency the centre stands, also starts to ask some serious questions.

The Labour leadership at the time of the decision to purchase and shortly afterwards, seemed to indicate that this was going to be a 'magical money tree' to provide extra funds for social care, mental health facilities and all sorts of other services. So let's see the evidence as to whether this is happening!

PETE SMITH
Blakenall ward resident

Boris still just a lot of noise

I SEE Boris Johnson is still engaged in his only real skill - making a lot of noise without achieving anything. There is not a jot of thought for the West Midlands in his latest pontificating, not a single solid fact to prove that Brexit will not cause harm to the West Midlands economy.

The problem is that too many people do not understand that it is all about Johnson's flamboyance not about providing practical solutions to real problems. The EU has been the driving force behind London's moves towards cleaner air.

As mayor Johnson did not oversee the building of a single new state secondary school in London yet he spent millions on what can only be described as monuments to Boris. He has said the EU is Germany's way of making a success out of World War Two without mentioning that they took in 200,000 Russian Jews when the USSR broke up.

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Jemma's well-versed in joys of helping patients

A STUDENT nurse has been inspired to write poetry about the 'beautiful career'.

Jemma Bird, from Walsall, is now in her third year of a nursing degree at Wolverhampton University.

The 34-year-old's poem, called Just A Nurse, has captured her experience of working on hospital wards as part of her initial training, as well as her aspirations to get into nursing when she was younger.

She said it had been her 'life-long ambition' to become a nurse but the decision to pursue her dream had not always been easy because of people's negative perceptions of the role.

Shape

But now she feels things have changed. She said: "After caring for people for two and a half years whilst studying for a degree, I realise the view of nursing held by some could not be further from the truth.

"I have found nursing to be a beautiful career that not only helps others in so many different ways but helps shape the person undertaking the role into the person they become.

"During my years studying I have written poetry relating to my experiences along the way.

"Just A Nurse is one I wrote during my first year and still reflects how I feel about the privilege of being able to care for people during their most vulnerable times."

Just A Nurse

BY JEMMA BIRD

Just a nurse was said to me. Just a nurse when young and wee.

Figuring out who I should be. Just a nurse? Was this for me?

Just a nurse, it's what I thought. Just a nurse, it's what was taught.

Just a nurse? How very wrong I was. Just a nurse? I know they're not.

And here's because:

Feeding, cleaning, assessments and more.
Drugs rounds, washes, blood on the floor.
Bandaging, swabs, IV drips and tea.
That 11 o'clock tea break is needed, believe me.
Sometimes if lucky ten minutes to drink.
Sometimes not even ten minutes to think.

Assignments, legislation, governance and law.
Anatomy, physiology, biochemistry to explore.
Information and exams, you don't understand.

Yet you read and read, till it's all second-hand.

Catheters, bed pans, helping people change.

Emergencies, resus, helping people walk once again.

Theatres, x-rays, surgery and more,
Being with patients and waiting by that door.

Not because you have to, just because you care

When a patient asks you to stay with them, you stay with them and share.

Their feelings of grief and worry and fear.
When they have no-one else but you that's here.

You become their friend for part of that day.

Someone to keep their worries at bay.
Holding hands and wiping tears.

Sharing good news and fighting back fears.

Hugs for patients who need them most, laughter, smiles and inside jokes.

And if you lose your family, we feel that too.

We really want the best for them and the best for you.

Playing cards with the elderly man, who thinks you're his wife,

His wife who's no longer part of this life.

And all you can do is play along and smile, hoping that somehow you make him happy for a while.

Nurses are pushed, prodded and pulled, yet they don't complain and carry on in their role.

Up at five and home at nine,
And all this is taken in their stride.

Just a nurse?...I'm a nurse with pride.



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Saddlers kick-off kits boost in Africa



Footballing youngsters in Sierra Leone seen with the donated old Walsall shirts

OLD Saddlers kits have been donated to football-mad youngsters in Africa. The group of young footballers in Sierra Leone received the donation of kits as part of Walsall's ongoing 'life-changing' link-up with the African nation.

The football foundation in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital, aims to give young people 'a focus, opportunity and a purpose in life using football as a focal point'.

Steve Davies from Walsall Football Supporters' Trust said: "Thanks for the kits, the support has been incredible and rest assured you are changing kids' lives in Freetown. "The excitement when a container is unloaded is great to see - long may it continue."

Walsall FC Sierra Leone said: "The senior boys were very happy to receive another set of donations. The boys, staff and the entire Walsall fans in Sierra Leone say a big thanks and appreciation to all for helping the boys with the game."

Library work to cost more

A REVAMP of Walsall Central Library will cost a quarter of a million pounds more than originally expected.

A survey has revealed extensive roof work costing at least £250,000 is needed on the listed 113-year-old Edwardian landmark including replacing insulation and hand-made clay tiles.

But determined council leaders insist it will not hold up the £4.3m works

and are confident it will still all be ready by November this year, despite not having chosen a builder yet.

Culture chief Councillor Ian Shires, said: "We appreciate that there is going to be an additional cost of approximately £250,000 however it will be money well spent to protect the fabric of the building." But Councillor Mike Bird, opposition Conservative in Walsall, said: "It seems they have started a project and haven't done the due diligence and have found a lot more needs doing."

The council has relocated the Central Library into the new Council House Library while the works take place. The council will be looking to sign the contracts after a planning committee meeting on March 22.

Councillor Shires said: "We are optimistic it will be completed in November, but we must get the detail right before we sign any contracts."

The work will see Central Library redesigned incorporating the local history centre and archive, a cafe, and computer lounge.

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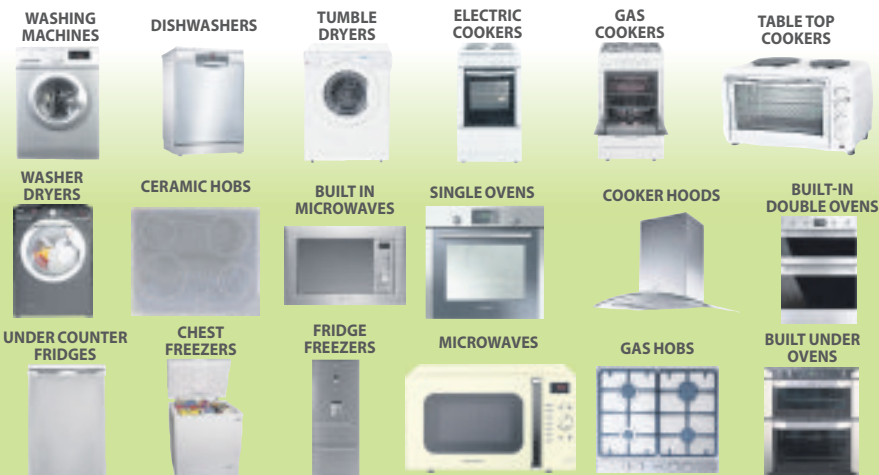
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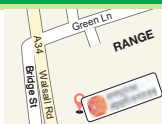
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Sufferers of stroke will go to New Cross

STROKE patients in Walsall will face longer journeys for treatment as they will no longer be taken to their local hospital.

People who suffer strokes in Walsall will now be taken to New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton as the stroke unit at the town's Manor Hospital is not considered to be busy enough to keep running.

The proposals were first announced last year and are now due to come into force from April. NHS bosses in Walsall said stroke services at the Manor were no longer 'sustainable' due to the relatively low number of patients being cared for.

A Walsall Council scrutiny panel is poised to give its support to the plan after being satisfied most patients will reach New Cross in 25 minutes.

The plan was taken to the scrutiny committee so health chiefs could be sure 'Walsall patients receive the highest level of care, regardless of the method by which they access the stroke services'.

Although it will mean longer journeys for some patients to get to hospital,

By Richard Guttridge

health experts insist the changes will ensure they 'receive treatment within national standards'.

National health guidelines state that for a hospital trust to run a viable 'hyper acute stroke unit' there should be a minimum of 600 confirmed stroke patients each year who are treated.

But the number of patients using the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust for stroke services have fallen well short, with only 420 cases confirmed.

Labour councillor Aftab Nawaz said: "I understand there is a level of expertise that isn't available at every hospital but the NHS should be funded to have the expertise in all hospitals."

Jorja is big Brits hit with music critics



Rising star - Critics' Choice Award winner, Walsall singing sensation Jorja Smith

SINGING sensation Jorja Smith's phenomenal rise continued last week, as she followed the likes of Adele and Sam Smith in picking up the Critics' Choice Award at the Brits.

The star, from Walsall, collected the award at the ceremony which took place on Wednesday featured the cream of British music.

The Critics' Choice Award is given to artists tipped to have a big future in the music industry. Some of the UK's biggest names have won the award in the past, including Adele, Sam Smith, Ellie Goulding and Emeli Sande.

As well as collecting her award, Jorja also performed at the Brits along with Wolverhampton's former One Direction star Liam Payne. The ceremony at London's O2 Arena was hosted by comedian Jack Whitehall. Stars attending the Brits were given a white rose badge before they took to the red carpet in the latest protest over the Harvey Weinstein scandal that rocked Hollywood last year.

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Social housing scheme backed by whg tenants

Jag gets a special delivery



Jagraj Poselay receiving his prize from HomeServe's John Greaves

A COMMUNITY fundraiser has received his prize after being honoured in the Express & Star's Great Big Thank You Awards.

Tesco delivery driver Jagraj Poselay, aged 47, from Walsall, was named Fundraiser of the Year, sponsored by HomeServe.

Jag has helped raise more than £40,000 for good causes through scores of entertainment nights and

shows. The generous community champion regularly works from 8am to 6pm but can then be found helping out with fundraising activities until 10pm straight after work.

After winning the award he said: "I feel amazing. It's overwhelming really, I wasn't prepared for this at all." More than 170 people attended the awards ceremony at Molineux last month.

CUSTOMERS of a Walsall-based landlord were taking part in an event at the House of Commons to support a campaign that aims to change public perceptions about social housing tenants.

The campaign, Benefit to Society, believes that the media, government and other public commentators all need to be challenged in the way they represent tenants who live in social housing.

A national survey showed that more than 90 per cent of social housing tenants feel they are portrayed in a negative way.

Now, those who live and work in social housing are asking their elected representatives to take action.

Walsall Housing Group (whg) has written to MPs in the 18 Midlands regions it has a presence in, inviting them along to the Benefit to Society launch event which took place at the House of Commons yesterday, Wednesday.

Customers Linda Cole and Noel Maxwell, who have both been whg tenants since 2003, were representing whg.

Linda, who chairs whg's customer services committee, said: "I am delighted to have been invited by whg to attend this event."

"I have always been very proud to be a social housing tenant and my experience as one has helped me become who I am today."

"I'm looking forward to meeting MPs and representatives from other housing associations and seeing how we can help to change the negative portrayal that social housing tenants regularly receive."

Linda and Noel were joined by Eddie Hughes, chair of whg Board and MP for Walsall North, Fay Shanahan, whg's corporate director of operations and Sarah Johnson, whg's income and residential property manager. It also saw the launch of a social media campaign aiming to profile tenants.



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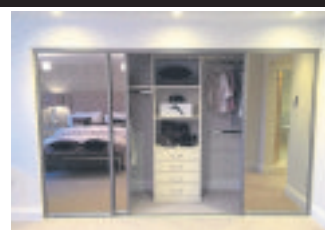
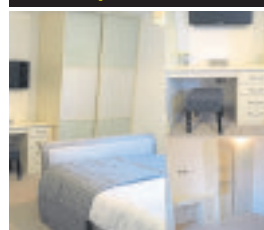
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THE demolition of a 111-year old scrap recycling company is in doubt after plans were withdrawn.

Walsall Council received a notice to bulldoze the old WH Marren warehouse and offices in Temple Bar, Willenhall.

But now, Wolverhampton-based housing developer Tatton Hall Homes which is behind the proposals to demolish the old business have withdrawn the plans from the council.

The business, which was in collapsed in July, saw 45 members of staff lose their jobs.

It was not known whether plans are in place to replace the building.

Established in 1906, WH Marren specialised in collecting and processing metals to be used in the manufacture of new goods, supplying tons of raw materials for companies across the UK, Europe and Asia.

It was still owned and run by the Marren family.



The WH Marren warehouse and offices



Another view of the site at Temple Bar, Willenhall

City mourns after death of 'favourite son' mayor Elias

TRIBUTES have been paid to 'hugely popular' city mayor Elias Mattu, who has died at the age of 59 following a long battle with illness.

Councillor Mattu, who represented Wolverhampton's Graiseley ward for Labour for almost 18 years, has been described as one of the city's 'favourite sons'.

He became the city's 159th mayor in 2017. Mr Mattu leaves behind his wife Asha and children Anthony, Ishmael and Jessica.

Leading the tributes, Mrs Mattu said: "To our family, he was undoubtedly our hero - an irreplaceable husband and father whose memory we shall cherish forever."

Council leader Roger Lawrence said: "Elias was my friend and a loyal, dedicated and loving family man. Elias served his city and council for nearly two decades with huge dedication. He was one of our city's favourite sons, a hugely popular councillor and person." Councillor Pete Bilson



Wolverhampton mayor Councillor Elias Mattu

said: "Elias was a committed councillor who had a great unifying influence. He always had time for people and will be fondly remembered."

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden said the city had lost 'someone very special'.

"The death of Councillor Mattu is a huge loss for Wolverhampton. A fantastic and tireless public servant, he worked so hard for the people of the city, always in a spirit of great generosity and warmth," he added.

Emma Reynolds, the MP for Wolverhampton North East, described Mr Mattu as 'a great friend, generous colleague and fantastic local councillor'. "He will be sorely missed," she said.

Graiseley councillor Jacqueline Sweetman said Mr Mattu was 'a great communitarian' who was able to create lasting and solid relationships with people. "There was a deep kindness about Elias. With his passing a little bit of the heart of Wolverhampton has gone."

Councillors Mary and Phil Bateman and Councillor Rita Potter issued a joint statement saying: "We will never forget him as being a kind man, a very good Mayor and councillor, and for being a very committed human being." A public book of condolence has been set up inside the Civic Centre.

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Memorial game to honour Richard



Baggies stalwart, Richard Eades, who died earlier this year
TICKETS have gone on sale for a memorial football match in honour of a much-loved former referee and Albion mascot. Former Albion stars Andy Johnson, Geoff Horsfield and Lee Hughes are expected to turn out for the match between Boing FC and an Albion Legends side which will pay tribute to Richard Eades, who died in December, aged 42. The event will be held at Halesowen Town FC on Sunday, April 29. Mascots from other football clubs will take part in a match before the main event, and a nine-a-side tournament earlier in the day. Richard spent nearly 30 years involved with Albion in a variety of roles, including, in more recent years, taking on the roles of mascots including Baggie Bird. Tickets are available from www.tickettailor.com/events/richardeadesmemorialfundraiser/148087

Burglars steal cars as family sleeping

BURGLARS made off in three cars worth more than £80,000 after breaking into a house and stealing keys while a family slept.

One of the two intruders, acting as a look-out, was captured on camera hiding in a neighbour's garden. The pair returned after 45 minutes to steal the third car.

Police have launched an investigation into the theft in West Bromwich - involving a BMW and two Audis - which took place as the occupants, including young children, slept inside.

The family has put up a four-figure reward for information leading to the recovery of one or more of the cars, or the arrest of either of those responsible.

Paul Green, owner of the BMW, said: "No-one was hurt but it makes me angry that they coolly broke in to our home while we were asleep." The burglars struck just before 4am last Monday while Mr Green, his parents, sister and her partner and their two children, aged seven and two, were in their beds.

CCTV footage from a neighbour living opposite the semi-detached house in Oldbury Road, Greet Green, showed one of the offenders standing and

By Marion Brennan

crouching behind their front garden wall, keeping a look out. After 20 minutes, his accomplice emerged from the property and the pair spoke briefly on the drive before making off in the Audi A6 and Audi S3.

Around 45 - 50 minutes later, one of them returned on foot and drove off in the BMW 3 series, having stolen the keys earlier. The total value of the cars is estimated to be £80,000 - £100,000.

Mr Green, aged 30, who works in sales for Laidlaw in Willenhall, said he got up at around 7.30am to find the front door wide open and his car missing but assumed another member of the family had borrowed or moved it.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 giving crime reference 20SW/39906L/18.

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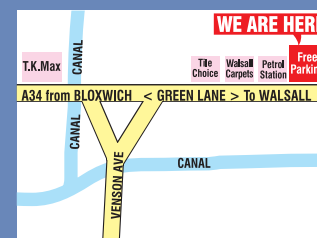
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Artist's efforts on the cards to help people

TWO friends have unveiled a unique project which they claim will help people get to grips with their inner emotions.

Illustrator Soeli Thomas, from Cheslyn Hay, and 56-year-old psychic Heather Spedding started the project more than 10 years ago – but it was placed on hold until last year due to Heather's family commitments.

However, the pair began working on the cards again in July (2017) when they both had the impulse to produce them to guide anyone wishing to tap into their emotions.

Soeli, 44, said the cards – which feature drawings depicting different emotional states – will help people understand their inner feelings.

The cards, made up of a 52-card deck with an explanatory book, feature illustrations produced in watercolour surroundings.

Soeli said: "These cards have been written to help you understand the emotions you are feeling inside."

"They can also be about the feelings of others around you. Sometimes it is hard to know how you are feeling."

"These cards help you understand your inner feelings and help you deal with situations going on around you." Soeli, who has previously studied both graphic design and psychic art, admits the attraction of a new challenge inspired her to get involved.

She said: "I like illustrations and it's just something different from what I've done before."

"This isn't monotonous – it's thinking outside the box, it's imaginative."

The cards are currently available to purchase online at www.spiritualpathway.co.uk



Artist Soeli Thomas, right, with the 'Inner Emotion' cards and Heather Spedding

Fundraiser for homeless

MUSICIANS from the West Midlands will come together to fundraise and raise awareness of homelessness in April.

The event, which is taking place in Stourbridge on April 22, will aim to raise money for Leslie's Care Packages for the Homeless which provides hands-on practical support for homeless people in the Black Country.

Musicians include Rockin Lee, Sid

River, Linda Marita Smith, John Stranks, Darren Shaggy Hyde, Ian Marrey, The Daises, The Missed and Matthew Lee Partridge. It takes place at Katie Fitzgeralds, Envile Street.

The fundraiser is hosted by We Shall Overcome which has organised over 700 events in 142 different towns and cities, across nine countries, on three continents, raising an estimated £350,000 for homeless people.

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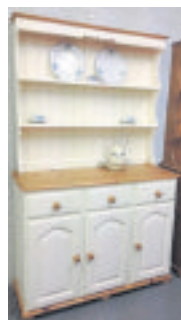
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Pink balloons are released for Mylee

COMMUNITY fundraisers held an event at a church to raise money for the family of tragic Mylee Billingham.

Pink balloons were released outside St James Parish Church, in Brownhills, in memory of the eight-year-old.

There were also stalls, games, prizes and face painting.

A gofundme page has already received £3,900 in donations for Mylee's family and a fundraising group has been set up on Facebook.

More than £520 was raised at the Vicarage Road church.

Reverend Dave Bishop, from the church, said: "This was something that was organised by members of the community who wanted to do something to support the family." William Billingham, of Valley View, Brownhills, is accused of murdering his daughter Mylee on January 20.

The 54-year-old is also alleged to have made threats to kill to the girl's mother.

Billingham is expected to enter pleas to the charges at his next hearing, which is due to take place at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 19.



Raising money were Marcus Cotterell, Johnny Clarke, Clare Chambers, Caroline Watkinson, Amy Walsh, aged 13, and Ashley Hall

Residents hit out at misery of 'disgusting' dumped rubbish

THE 'atrocious' smell coming from mountains of rubbish dumped in a Walsall housing estate has become too much to bear, as desperate residents plea for help.

Piles of waste being dumped on the Silverdale estate has reached another level, with rats 'the size of house cats', endless black bin bags, and a smell so unbearable locals are walking around with scarves wrapped around their mouths and noses.

But Walsall Council said it was un-

able to help as the land was privately owned. Jeanette Barnfield, 66, has lived in Pommel Close for 30 years and said during the last two years the problem has become increasingly worse. She has written to the landowner, the council, her local councillors and her MP in a bid to get something done about the 'vile' situation.

Ms Barnfield said: "At one point there were 13 or 14 fridge freezers dumped there. There are black sacks, garden rubbish, I've even seen women's sanitary products. It's a matter of health and safety. There are rats as big as house cats, foxes too."

"It smells atrocious but no-one is

prepared to deal with it. We just want something done. We are paying our council tax but it's having no effect."

The rubbish is tipped there overnight, when no-one is around, by the garages off Stirrup Close, residents have claimed. Maria Stanton, of nearby Segundo Road, added: "It's disgusting. Small children live around here yet we have seagull, rats - we've reached our wit's end with it."

MP for Walsall South Valerie Vaz said: "Fly tipping remains a problem in Walsall and combating it has only been made more difficult by the massive Conservative government cuts to Walsall Council's budget."

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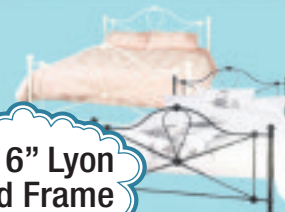
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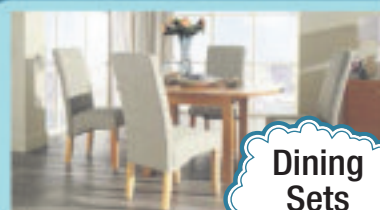
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Jobs and skills help with expo at Hub



Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall council leader, as preparations continued for Walsall's jobs and skills event

Making Walsall work

PREPARATIONS are underway for the biggest ever jobs and skills event to be held in Walsall.

More than 80 local employers and training providers will come together at the Walsall Works Expo event in a fortnight, to offer jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities to more than 1,100 people.

The event, on March 15, has been organised by Walsall Council's Employment and Skills team, in partnership with the DWP and the VIEW programme and will be held at The Hub, Walsall College between 12.30pm and 5pm.

Utility giant Homeserve will be joined by the Express & Star, Walsall Football Club, Walsall College, National Express, whg, and organisations across various industries and sectors.

Councillor Lee Jeavons, deputy leader of Walsall Council and portfolio holder for regeneration said: "This is the third year we have held the Walsall Works Expo and this year's event promises to be bigger and better like nothing before."

"We're working really hard to encourage as many as people to attend; We have tried to design the event so that it meets a multitude of needs, starting in the morning with a career showcase for young school aged pupils, followed by a lunchtime session for employers."

"The finale of the event is the main Expo in the afternoon which expects to see over 1,100 local jobseekers in attendance."

Black Country Impact, which provides free courses to young adults will give visitors the chance to stand out by helping them to create a video CV.

To register your attendance call Walsall Works on 01922 654353 or email WalsallWorks@walsall.gov.uk

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More than fifty sex offenders at large

MORE than 50 convicted sex offenders from across the West Midlands are at large, according to official police figures.

Forces in the West Midlands, Staffordshire and West Mercia said they do not know the whereabouts of 55 sex offenders – including two who have been on the run for more than a decade.

The figures include paedophiles and rapists and show the region has the second highest number of missing sex offenders in England.

Staffordshire Police has lost track of five sex offenders, while West Midlands Police said 46 had gone missing, with five going on the run since the start of this year. West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police said four were at large, including one who has been missing for 11 years. West Midlands Police are also trying to track down a sex offender who disappeared in 2006.

The figures, released under the Freedom of Information Act, have prompted concerns over child safety, with politicians on all sides urging police to redouble

By Peter Madeley

their efforts. Eddie Hughes, the Conservative MP for Walsall North, said: "Fundamentally, this is not a huge number of offenders to keep tabs on, so you would think the police would be able to allocate the resources required to track them down."

West Midlands Police refused to name those missing, insisting that doing so would 'breach a third party's data protection rights'.

Chief Inspector Nicola Court from West Midlands Police Integrated Offender Management Unit, said investigations were in place to trace all 46 missing offenders. She said the force believed that 14 of them had fled the country.

Muggers target MP on way home



West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey, aged 72, was mugged on his way home from Westminster

A SANDWELL MP was mugged by a gang of thugs in a terrifying robbery. Adrian Bailey, aged 72, says robbers made off with his wallet and mobile phone when he was attacked on his way home from Westminster.

The Labour MP for West Bromwich West, told how he was near to his flat in Southwark, south London, on Tuesday at around 10pm when he was approached by a gang of up to six assailants who attacked him from 'all sides'.

Mr Bailey said that he was 'boxed in' and knocked to the ground. During the tussle he says he received 'a number of blows' and was hit over the head with a large plastic milk container. The gang made off with his wallet and phone before he was able to report the attack to the police. The Met has launched an investigation into the incident.

Mr Bailey said did not require hospital treatment but was 'badly shaken up'. He said: "I appreciate that many other people have gone through what I went through last night and it really brought home to me the value of having bobbies on the beat to deter such attacks."

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It's an age-old tale of fun for Quartet

It has an all-star cast. Quartet features Paul Nicholas, Wendi Peters, Sue Holderness and Jeff Rawle and tells the charming tale of four ageing opera singers. The show, which opens at Birmingham's REP on Tuesday and runs until March 10, tells the story of Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred, who reside in a magnificent retirement home in Kent.

The rumour circling the halls is that the home is soon to play host to a new resident. Word is, it's a star. Jean arrives and old rivalries resurface, secrets are revealed and chaos unfolds, but in true theatrical tradition - the show must go on.

Paul Nicholas is best known for his work in The Real Marigold Hotel and Just Good Friends, Wendi Peters starred in Coronation Street and Oh What A Lovely War!, Sue Holderness played Marlene in Only Fools and Horses and The Green Green Grass while Jeff Rawle became a household name in Harry Potter and Drop The Dead Donkey.

Their work in the new revival of the bitter-sweet comedy has dazzled critics. Quartet was created by the Oscar-winning writer Sir Ronald Harwood and is a celebration of the twilight years and the hilarity of growing old disgracefully.

The character who causes the disruption at the Kentish retirement home is played by Sue Holderness, who featured alongside Boycie in Only Fools and Horses.

GENERATION

She says: "My character in Quartet, Jean Horton, was a major star in the world of opera. In her heyday she was known as one of the finest sopranos of her generation. She retired very early, apparently to settle down and spend time with her children.

"We discover during the play that there was rather more to it than that. She is a diva. She still thinks of herself as a major star and expects all those around her to jump to her every whim. She's really rather a monster - so thrilling to play.

"The four characters are very different and seeing them interacting is great fun. Ronald Harwood is the most wonderful writer. I've been blessed in my career to be offered roles written by some of the very finest writers - Alan Ayckbourn, George Bernard Shaw, Terence Rattigan and, of course, the genius John Sullivan. Ronald Harwood is up there with the best of them."

She relates to the play because it focuses on the ageing process. "You ask me to give advice about the hilarity of growing old! Much of it isn't hilarious at all. Bits of you start to creak and the memory goes walkabout. My character in this is waiting for a new hip and is in constant pain, which probably accounts for some of her grumpiness. But my advice would simply be to keep going. Walk a lot, eat well and laugh. Laughter really is the best medicine - so come and see Quartet."

Actor Paul Nicholas has been enjoying working with his fellow cast and is happy to be on the road.

"It helps that we're playing old people, other than Wendi who's a child. If you're working with slightly more mature actors they've been there and done it all, so it's a bit more easy-going."

He was looking for a role



Grey area - Quartet is set in a retirement home in Kent

that reflected on growing old and was delighted when he stumbled upon Quartet.

"I was looking to do something for an older guy and I came across this play. I thought it was excellent and very well written. It's a very good comment on what it's like to be older, especially as an older performer - the difficulties, the fun, the various moods and things that become apparent when you get older.

"There's one great line 'we don't actually change, I'm still the same person'. It's true, we do basically stay the same. I try to anyway. Every so often you get a job that makes you think 'that's really good', and this is one of those occasions.

"When people come to see it, particularly older people, will recognise things that happen. It sounds awful but it's actually quite funny. As long as you can keep your sense of humour above anything, you're OK. Being old can be very enjoyable and you can still have a lot of fun."

Wendi Peters has enjoyed being on the road since leaving Coronation Street, where she played Cilla Battersby-Brown. "I think it's going to be a lovely tour; we go to really lovely venues. I think it's going

Being old can be very enjoyable and you can still have a lot of fun

to be a lovely, sedate tour with lots of cups of tea, lots of sightseeing... as well as doing the play in beautiful theatres.

"I saw the film when it first came out and again when we started rehearsals; I was pleasantly surprised at how different they are. The film is beautiful and very gentle... the play is outright funny!

"We're laughing at bits ourselves, and we had a select audience the other day and were thrilled at how much they were laughing out loud. There probably isn't a page of dialogue that goes by without a big laugh."

Jeff Rawle, meanwhile, thinks the comedy is touching. "It's very funny because the whole point is that they're ageing opera singers who were successful in their day so they're all highly individual and eccentric people, all together in various states of decay. In some ways, they're starting to return to their childhoods and their past has become very important to them.

"I think people living with older parents, or who are getting old themselves, will recognise the traits - but they're dealt with great humour. It's very well written."

Andy Richardson

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The Pale Waves



On crest of the Waves

Breakthrough band Pale Waves are riding the crest of success with tour dates selling out as the My Obsession quartet prepare to play for a full house at Birmingham's O2 Academy 3 tomorrow night (Friday).

This month the Kohl-eyed indie pop outfit formed at Manchester University are more than living up to the 'next big thing' status afforded by the BBC Sound of 2018 listing and NME Under the Radar award. This month they release *The Tide*, a new track from their forthcoming *All The Things I Never Said* EP, a follow up to their singles *My Obsession* and *New Year's Eve*.

Everything Everything have further refined their jittery angular take on indie rock with fourth album *A Fever Dream*, again distinctive due to the soaring vocals of Jonathan Higgs, and they will be in concert at the O2 Academy on Saturday.

The Modfather himself, Paul Weller, former The Jam

and Style Council frontman and a solo success for 26 years, is in concert at the Genting Arena tomorrow with songs from across his 40-year career including 13th studio album *A Kind Of Revolution*. The Strypes support. Then on Saturday the Genting hosts the pride of Ramsbottom, Elbow, as Guy Garvey and co bring their *Little Fictions* tour with more majestic melancholy rock.

Leeds outfit Hookworms bring their electro-psych-pop, as heard on the new *Microshift* album, to the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday and international eight-piece *Superorganism*, who have released brilliant pop track *Everybody Wants To Be Famous*, showcase their self-titled debut album at the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Monday.

Gwenno brings her Cornish psychedelic folk to the Hare and Hounds next Thursday (March 8), the same night reactivated synth pop legends Blancmange play the venue's other room.

Great entertainer in his price range



THERE was a brilliant moment at The Royal Variety Performance when Brian Conley was standing on stage with his old mate Bradley Walsh.

"I'm going to do an impression," Brian said. "This is Bradley Walsh." He faced away from the audience at the London Palladium and as Bradley looked on, none the wiser, Brian wrapped cello tape around his face so that his nose was squashed and his eyes wrinkled. He turned to face the audience, aped his mate's accent and stood right next to him. "I'm Bradley." The audience

roared. And then he started to jog across the stage. Bradley looked at Brian, jaw dropping somewhere near the floor.

"What are you doing, Brian." "The Chase." Boom.

Conley has been entertaining people for 45 years, having got his first paying gig at the age of 12.

During that time, he's made five Royal Variety Performance appearances and been the lead in such musicals as *Me and My Girl*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Hairspray*, *Oliver!*, *The Music Man*, *Barnum* and *Jolson* for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award.

He's also won a raft of TV awards and a British Comedy Award.

He's not done badly for a kid who was in the remedial class at school.

He's on the road again with his one-man show. It's called *Brian Conley - Still The Greatest Entertainer In His Price Range*, a typically self-deprecating title.

The show is at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on March 10 and he's added a matinee because the evening show is almost sold out. He will also be at Lichfield Garrick on April 6 and Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on May 13.

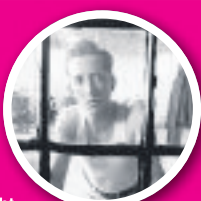
Changing wombs with mirth and music

Former *EastEnders* star Cheryl Fergison will join Maureen Nolan, *Casualty*'s Rebecca Wheatley and comedienne Hilary O'Neil in *Menopause The Musical* at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre - an all-singing all-dancing comedy that's likely to bring you out in a hot flush! The show is set in a department store where four women with seemingly nothing in common meet by chance and make fun of their lives experiencing 'The Change'. The production is even sponsored by a health supplement for ladies of a certain age. Packed with one-liners and lots of classic pop tunes, *Menopause The Musical* is at the Lichfield Street theatre for one night on Monday. See grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

It will also be at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on April 28.

Pokey around in American sounds

Retro Americana drawing on blues and western swing comes to Birmingham's O2 Institute on Wednesday when Missouri's Pokey LaFarge makes a rare Midlands appearance. Born Andrew Heissler and nicknamed Pokey as a child, LaFarge first caught the eye and ear in the UK when his old time sound and look was showcased on TV by Jools Holland, performing the *La La Blues* and *Drinkin' Whiskey*. He has released eight albums, the most recent being *Manic Revelations*.



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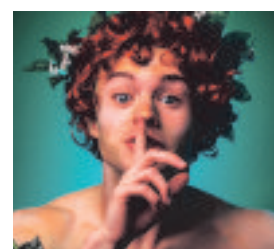
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CHOICE



Pamela Anderson

Piers Morgan's Life Stories (ITV, 9.50pm)
The host interviews former Baywatch star and Playboy centrefold Pamela Anderson, who reflects on her career and turbulent personal life. She talks about her first husband Tommy Lee, whom she married following a whirlwind four-day courtship, and discusses the nature of her recent relationship with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. She also opens up about her role as an animal rights activist, including persuading Vladimir Putin to ban the import of seal products into Russia.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Triathlon. **2.45** Cycling. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.40** Celebrity Mastermind. (R)
6.10 **BBC News.**
6.20 **Regional Programme.**
6.25 **Pointless Celebrities.** Colin Jackson, Roger Black, Rowetta, Tony Mortimer, Anna Ryder Richardson, Kirsten O'Brien and Chesney Hawkes compete in a 1990s-themed edition of the general knowledge quiz.
7.15 **All Together Now.** Rob Beckett hosts the Grand Final of the crowd-pleasing talent show, as the 10 finalists return to battle it out for the right to claim the £50,000 prize, and the title of champion. Each competitor performs a single song, hoping to get as many of the 100-strong panel of judges to join in. Then, the three highest-scoring singers take part in a make-or-break sing-off, performing a brand new song in one last attempt to impress the judges. Last in the series.
8.20 **Casualty.** Dylan faces a personal and professional dilemma when two members of his AA group arrive in the ED, and Ethan becomes convinced that Bea is the author of the Rage in Resus blog.
9.10 **Troy: Fall of a City.** The Greeks' grip on the city of Troy tightens, orcing Hector and Paris to embark on a risky mission to enlist the aid of a nearby ally. With only each other for support, the brothers' ordeal tests and strengthens their bond, but when a familiar face tells Hector the disturbing truth about Paris, the pair's newfound kinship is placed in jeopardy once more. Meanwhile, back in Troy, Helen finally begins to win over Andromache and the people of the city with her generosity, but she remains unaware that Menelaus and Agamemnon have devised an audacious plan to steal her back.
10.10 **BBC News:** Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.30 **Match of the Day.**
11.55 **Film: My Brother the Devil.** (2012) Drama, starring James Floyd and Fady Elsayed.
1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **6.25** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **6.55** The Pets Factor. **7.15** The Designers. **7.45** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.15** Beyond Bionic. **8.45** Robot Wars. (R) **9.45** Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the opening session on the third day of the competition, which takes place at Arena Birmingham. The opening round of heats in the men's 60m and 1500m are due to take place, along with the finals of the women's triple jump and men's shot put. With analysis from Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis, Paula Radcliffe and Colin Jackson, and commentary by Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter and Steve Backley. **1.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.30** Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) **3.30** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. (R) **4.30** Hugh's Wild West. **5.30** Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the evening session on the third day of the competition, which takes place at Arena Birmingham. The schedule includes the finals of the men's 60m, 400m and 800m, as well as the women's 400m and 1500m finals. With analysis from Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis, Paula Radcliffe and Colin Jackson, and commentary by Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter and Steve Backley. **9.30** **Film: A Little Chaos.** (2014) Premiere. A female landscape designer is 17th-century France challenges boundaries of class and gender when she is chosen by King Louis XIV to create a new garden for the palace of Versailles. She becomes romantically involved with a fellow designer, whose creative philosophy is the opposite of hers. Period drama, starring Kate Winslet, Matthias Schoenaerts, Stanley Tucci and Alan Rickman, who also directed.
11.20 **Film: The Help.** (2011) An aspiring journalist returns to her Mississippi home in the 1960s and begins documenting the lives of black servants working for wealthy white families. Her project brings the community's household staff together, but creates controversy among their employers. Drama based on Kathryn Stockett's novel, starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard and an Oscar-winning Octavia Spencer.
1.40 Civilisations. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.25** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.25** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster. Coverage of today's race meetings at Doncaster, Newbury and Kelso. **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)
6.00 **ITV News:** Weather.
6.20 **Regional Programme;** Weather.
6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a Vlogger who squirts perfume in her eyes and a runaway car that wrecks a campsite.
7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Geordie duo celebrate the 100th edition of their award-winning programme, and put their OBEs to good use as they join a secret service agency staffed by individuals with honours as their latest mystery spoof sketch gets under way. Oscar-winning actor Cuba Gooding Jr is this week's guest announcer, and Michael Ball and Alfie Boe help out with the End of the Show Show. Plus, Stephen Mulhern gives members of the public in Warrington the chance to win a cash prize in this week's In for a Penny, and Scarlett Moffatt has another huge surprise in store for an unsuspecting family.
8.30 **The Voice UK.** The singers who made it through the audition stages face another round of head-to-head performances, as the second night of the Battles phase arrives.
9.50 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories.** The host interviews former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson, who reflects on her career.
10.45 **ITV News:** Weather.
11.05 **Film: The Fast and the Furious.** (2001) Thriller, starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker.
1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supertv. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages.** The actress discovers the idyllic coastal villages of East Anglia. She travels by train to the Edwardian holiday resort of Weybourne, and goes dredging at Cley next the Sea. She also hears a scandalous take in Stiffkey, and heads to Thorpeness, Suffolk, to visit a village inspired by the tale of Peter Pan. Plus, she takes in the ancient settlement of Dunwich, and ends her journey at Walberswick. Previously seen on More4.
8.00 **Britain at Low Tide.** Tori Herridge explores more tales of Britain's rich maritime history, this time visiting the banks of the Clyde. In Glasgow, she finds evidence of a busy Iron Age waterway and an enormous wall built to channel the water, illustrating the complex relationship between the city and the river it was built upon. She also discovers an oddly shaped vessel in a boat graveyard that would have been instrumental in constructing the wall.
9.00 **Film: 10 Cloverfield Lane.** (2016) Premiere. A woman survives a car crash, and wakes up to find herself in an underground bunker, belonging to a survivalist who claims that a devastating attack has left the outside world uninhabitable. As his behaviour becomes increasingly stranger, she begins to fear she is being tricked and resolves to discover the truth for herself. Thriller, starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead.
11.00 **Film: Predator.** (1987) Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzeneger.
1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** The Last Leg. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** The Question Jury. (R) **5.50** Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House. (R)
6.00 **The Secret Life of Kittens.** Part one of two. Documentary following kittens from birth to 12 months old, revealing how the sights, smells and sounds they experience and the friends they make during this period create indelible impressions and shape their unique personalities. iCameras capture all the formative moments, including their first exploration of their home environment, their curtain-climbing acrobatics, and the first time they venture out to meet the neighbourhood cats. (R)
7.00 **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** The singer heads to Alaska, America's largest state and home to some of the most breathtaking scenery on the planet. She takes a helicopter trip up to an ice field for a dog-sledding adventure, and later witnesses the majesty of the Margery glacier, a 21-mile stretch of ice in the Glacier Bay National Park. On board Holland America's ship Nieuw Amsterdam, Jane goes backstage to meet the cast of the nightly musicals, has a cooking lesson from the executive chef and reveals how to make the most of a lazy day in port. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 **The Queen Mary: Cruising with the Royals.** Part two of two. Rob Bell examines RMS Queen Mary, the most famous ocean liner ever built and the first merchant naval ship ever to have been launched by a reigning sovereign. (R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Reading and Aston Villa v Queens Park Rangers.
10.00 **Live Championship Boxing.** Josh Taylor v Humberto Soto.
11.30 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.**
12.00 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World
8.00 Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest **9.00** Modus **10.30** Promises & Lies: The Story of UB40 **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.40** The Shires: New Country **1.40** Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest **2.40** Promises & Lies: The Story of UB40 **3.40** Close
ITV2
11.35 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.15** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **3.00** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **5.15** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.00** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **9.00** Film: White House Down (2013) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: White House Down (2013) **11.35** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** Ibiza Weekender **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.20 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.25** Film: Columbo: Double Shock (1973) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.00 Storage Wars **12.30** Live Darts: UK Open. Coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** Football's Greatest: Eusebio **5.05** Pawn Stars **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.05** Film: Reservoir Dogs (1992) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Reservoir Dogs (1992) **1.10** Minder **2.10** Tommy Cooper **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.20 Film: Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Film: Men in Black 3 (2012) **9.00** Film: Identity Thief (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** Celebs Go Dating **2.35** Celebs Go Dating: The Finale **3.25** Timeless **4.10** Don't Tell the Bride Ireland **5.05** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
1.00 Field of Dreams (1989) **3.05** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.50** Morning Glory (2010) **7.00** Tomorrow, When the War Began (2010) **9.00** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **10.50** Double Jeopardy (1999) **12.55** The Craft (1996) **3.00** Close

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CHOICE



Tom Burke

Strike – Career of Evil (BBC1, 9pm)

Part two of two. Strike goes in search of a murder suspect in several London's strip clubs, but a furious Wardle warns him not to interfere in police business. Robin's relationship hits an all-time low as she considers whether she wants to go through with getting married, while her mother urges her to consider her priorities. She comes to Matthew's aid when the killer sends him a severed thumb, but recklessly turns to Shanker for help behind Strike's back, urging him to take her to a suspect's home.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** MasterChef. (R) **2.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Film: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa. (2008) Animated comedy sequel.

6.05 BBC News.**6.20 Regional Programme.**

6.30 **Countryside.** Helen Skelton presents a compilation of items from previous episodes on the theme of water from Kielder Water in Northumberland, and also takes a look at how everyday life is shaped by it.

7.30 **Hold the Sunset.** Mrs Gale gives herself the task of being an unofficial marriage guidance counsellor to Roger and Wendy, while Edith and Phil seize the chance to get away for the weekend.

8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Barbara's condition is not improving and she is kept in isolation at the hospital, leaving her friends able to do nothing but wait for more news. Dr Turner and Shelagh assist a man being held in a remand home whose wife is pregnant, while Lucille makes some new friends.

9.00 **Strike – Career of Evil.** Part two of two. Strike goes in search of a murder suspect in London's strip clubs, and Robin's relationship hits an all-time low, especially when the killer sends Matthew a thumb.

10.00 BBC News.**10.20 Regional Programme.**

10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's two Premier League fixtures - Manchester City v Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium and Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal at the Amex Stadium. Pep Guardiola's side were looking to extend their lead at the top of the table, and move one step closer to what is looking like a certain title. The Seagulls were hoping to cause an upset against the Gunners, and move away from the relegation places.

11.30 **Film: Reign of Fire.** (2002) Fantasy adventure, starring Christian Bale.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **6.50** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryside. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.45** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Cycling. Coverage of day five of the Track World Championships in the Netherlands. **2.45** Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships.

6.00 **Back in Time for Tea.** A family embarks on a time-travelling adventure to discover how a post-war revolution in food transformed the British way of life, sampling meals from 1918 to the present day. (R)

7.00 **The World's Most Extraordinary Homes.** Award-winning architect Piers Taylor and actress and property enthusiast Caroline Quentin explore extraordinary homes built in mountain, forest, coastal and underground locations around the world, meeting the owners and architects brave enough to take the challenges on. (R)

8.00 **Top Gear.** The motoring show goes Stateside with a trip to California, where Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris venture into some of the densest forests in the state to put some off-road vehicles through their paces – and maybe see if there is any truth to the local legends of Bigfoot while they are at it. Returning to the studio, the guys are joined by this week's guest comedian Lee Mack, while Chris takes the McLaren 720S for a spin on the test track and Rory Reid invents the new sport of reverse camera racing.

9.00 **Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution.** A look at capital punishment through the eyes of young people whose lives have been shaped by it, including interviews from those on death row and their families.

10.20 **The Mash Report.** Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

10.50 Top Gear: Extra Gear.**11.15 Cleverman.**

12.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.10** Holly City. (R) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday.

11.00 The Voice UK. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.00** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News: Weather. **4.45** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 **Dancing on Ice.** Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present the semi-final of the skating contest. Only four celebrities remain in the running – and only three of them will be going through to next week's grand finale. They must put on a spectacular show to impress judges Christopher Dean, Jayne Torvill, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo, before a final skate-off decides who will be leaving the show.

8.00 **Endeavour.** Morse investigates an assassination attempt at an international sporting event, but the case is very quickly closed. While Thursday is determined to walk away, Morse delves deeper, getting drawn into a web of intrigue involving espionage, big business and a dark secret in the heart of the Oxford community. Meanwhile, Thursday faces a moral dilemma as he tries to protect a woman from her violent husband.

10.00 **ITV News: Sunday.**

10.15 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.15 **The Martin Lewis Money Show.** The financial journalist presents money-saving tips to help consumers cope with the current economic climate. (R)

11.40 **100 Year Old Driving School.** Cameras follow some of Britain's oldest drivers as they put themselves through the paces of a mature driving assessment. (R)

12.05 Marcella. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters. (2013) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Logan Lerman. **4.55** Film: Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb. (2014) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 **Posh Pawn.** High-end pawnbroker James heads to Marbella to appraise a 75ft yacht worth £250,000. However, he finds the vessel rather tricky to locate. Plus, an aspiring restaurateur seeks to raise £80,000 by selling his Ferrari Spyder, and a large diamond ring that was handed down through the generations gets James hot under the collar. (R)

8.00 **Churchill's Secret Affair.** Documentary exploring the secret relationship between the prime minister and a woman he met in the South of France during the 1930s. During an important visit to President Roosevelt at the height of the war, he was reunited with his former lover, now stranded in the US and in possession of a portrait that could have a devastating impact during a dangerous period for the nation.

9.00 **Homeland.** A revelation leads to distress for Carrie, while Saul negotiates. Keane and Wellington do not see eye to eye over an important matter. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Linus Roache and Elizabeth Marvel.

10.05 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and Jayde Adams take on Sean Lock and Joe Wilkinson. (R)

11.05 **Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack.** The comedian performs at London's Hammersmith Apollo in a show from his 2014 tour. (R)

12.05 **Film: The Haunting.** (1999) **2.00** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **2.30** The Supertur. (R) **3.25** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **4.20** Coast vs Country. (R) **5.10** Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Moty. (R) **6.20** Simon. (R) **6.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Pav Patrol. (R) **6.45** Pomas & Friends. (R) **6.55** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.05** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.15** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.25** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **10.15** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.45** FIA Formula E: Highlights. **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Film: Wyatt Earp. (1994) Western, starring Kevin Costner. **4.25** Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Second World War action adventure, with Lee Marvin. **5.25** 5 News Update. **5.30** Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Concluded.

7.20 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents try to recover almost £2,000 owed by the owner of a bridal shop in London, while officers in Kent chase over £4,000 of vet fees after two neighbouring dogs got into a fight. (R)

8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents in central London try to recover almost £1,900 owed in parking fines, while officers Stewart and Vic chase over £2,200 owed by a scrap yard owner to a shipping company. Finally, Stewart and Vic head to Merseyside to recover over £3,500 owed by a publishing company to an unhappy ex-employee. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **When Award Shows Go Horribly Wrong.** Julian Clary narrates a compilation of disastrous moments at awards show, including autocue failures (as well as one act of sabotage courtesy of Michael Barrymore) and wardrobe malfunctions including Madonna's infamous cape disaster. Featuring contributions from the stars who were present, including Samantha Fox's first-hand account of hosting the infamously shambolic 1989 Brit awards.

11.55 **Jo Brand: Secrets of Her Success.** Friends including Ross Noble, Alan Davies, Meera Syal, Morwenna Banks, Jimmy Mulville and Ricky Grover celebrate the former nurse's 30-year career in comedy. (R)

12.55 Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World **9.00** Timeshift: Full Throttle – The Glory Days of British Motorbikes **10.00** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **11.00** Conversations – Shirley Williams **12.00** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World **1.00** The Mountain That Had to Be Painted **2.00** The Art of France **3.00** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **4.00** Close

ITV2

7.00 Film: The Flintstones (1994) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **4.50** Film: Legally Blonde (2001) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Legally Blonde (2001) **6.45** Film: Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.25** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **12.50** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.35 A Touch of Frost **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.00** Lewis **6.00** The Durrells **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Film: Chocolat (2000) **12.25** Life of Crime **1.25** Blue Murder **2.40** George and Mildred **3.05** Rising Damp **3.55** Road to Avonlea

ITV4

12.45 Live Darts: UK Open. **5.00** Football's Greatest: Thierry Henry **5.05** Pawn Stars **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. **11.00** Film: The Keeper (2009) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: The Keeper (2009) **12.55** River Monsters **2.00** Tommy Cooper **2.30** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**

11.05 Film: Stuart Little 2 (2002) **12.35** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.00** The Goldbergs **1.30** The Big Bang Theory: Superheroes **5.30** Young Sheldon **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** Film: Captain America: The First Avenger (2011) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Gogglebox **12.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.40** Timeless **3.25** Rude Tube **3.50** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Dancing at Lughnasa (1998) **1.00** The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) **3.05** Fast Girls (2012) **4.50** Crocodile Dundee (1986) **6.45** The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) **9.00** Fast & Furious 6 (2013) **11.35** The Purge (2013) **1.15** The Principles of Lust (2003) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Forbidden Secrets, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A recently divorced woman returns to her family home to begin rebuilding her life, but her stay turns into a nightmare when she has frightening visions of her troubled childhood, during which her mother tried to drown her. Determined to face her fears, she visits the institution where her parent resides, and inadvertently triggers a series of terrifying events. Thriller, starring Kristy Swanson and David Keeley. (2005)

TUESDAY
Bond of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman searches for answers after her husband is mysteriously murdered while trying to subdue a wild teenage house party on New Year's Eve. However, as she tries to find out the truth, she faces secrecy at every turn from the party-goers and their parents. Drama, starring Kim Raver, Greg Grunberg and Charlie McDermott. (2010)



WEDNESDAY
Memento, BBC1, 11.45pm
 An insurance investigator suffers from short-term memory loss after an attack in which his wife was also raped and murdered. Unable to remember events for more than a few minutes, he is determined to track down the killer and relies on copious note-taking and reminders tattooed on his body to aid his mission. Christopher Nolan's thriller, starring Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss and Mark Boone Jr. (2000)

THURSDAY
A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery:, Channel 5, 3.20pm
 When an amateur sleuth finds a skull hidden in her new home she sets out to discover who the victim was. Whodunit, with Candace Cameron Bure. (2015)

FRIDAY
Captain America: The Winter Soldier, BBC1, 11.05pm
 The superhuman soldier battles a mysterious cyborg assassin as he uncovers a sinister conspiracy. Comic-book thriller sequel, starring Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson, Anthony Mackie and Robert Redford. (2014)

Lee goes from one disaster to the next in returning sitcom

It has survived some significant personnel changes and no end of critical disdain over the years to become the longest running sitcom currently on British television.

The opening episode of Not Going Out's previous series (its eighth) attracted a whopping 5.52 million viewers, a record for the show.

And no TV boss in their right mind would dare to utter the words "this is not going out" with those types of viewing figures.

The sitcom was originally inspired by a sketch in Lee Mack's Bits at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and it was the first British comedy to be filmed in front of a live studio audience that was subsequently broadcast in HD.

The original ideas for the title of the show were Three's a Crowd, Three, and the number of the apartment.

In the pilot, Kate was played by Catherine Tate (Megan Dodds eventually took over), and she had an ex-boyfriend called Colin, who

was a city boy, with stubble and a leather jacket.

Then, at the end of season one, Tim Vine's real-life sister Sonya was considered for the role of Lucy, before it eventually went to Sally Bretton.

Meanwhile, Katy Wix, who played the dizzy Daisy from series three, was actually never meant to be a regular.

But despite all these changes (you may also recall Miranda Hart starring too for a couple of series), Mack and Bretton, along with a solid ensemble cast including Bobby Ball, Hugh Dennis, Abigail Cruttenden, Geoffrey Whitehead and Deborah Grant, have continued to make Not Going Out's loyal fans tune in and laugh.

Many critics claimed the show was tired and predictable, but it returned in January 2017 with a different setting, and a new lease of comedy life.

The timeline had jumped ahead seven years and the will-they-won't-they flat-based comedy had

morphed into a family sitcom.

King of the one-liner Lee is now married to Lucy and the show follows the mismatched couple as they navigate the challenges of being parents to three young children.

The title works now more than ever, you could say.

Tonight, Not Going Out returns with it's ninth run, and we rejoin Lee and Lucy in the anarchic, packed family house with kids Charlie and twin siblings, Benji and Molly.

As if children weren't enough to keep the couple crashing from one near-disaster to the next, factor in Lee's lovably feckless father, Frank, and close friends in the form of the world-weary, or more specifically wife-weary, Toby, and his other half, uptight ice-queen Anna.

At least Lucy's more dependable parents are on hand to offer guidance, but we all know what Geoffrey and Wendy make of their daughter's life choices, and more specifically, her wisecracking husband.



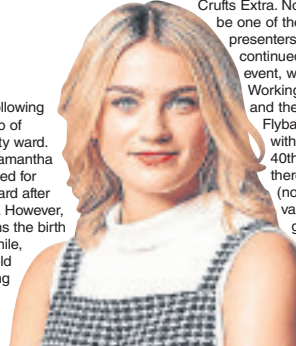
Not Going Out, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

broadcaster Bill Turnbull and comedian Harry Hill.

Their first challenge is a bake sale classic - cupcakes. But then the competition intensifies with a fiery technical, followed by a demanding showstopper that involves recreating the best day of their lives as a three-dimensional biscuit scene.

WEDNESDAY
One Born Every Minute Channel 4, 9pm
 New series. The award-winning documentary series moves to Birmingham Women's Hospital, following the highs and lows of a new group of soon-to-be parents in the maternity ward. In the first episode, 25-year-old Samantha and her partner Tony, who struggled for years to conceive, return to the ward after losing their first child at 25 weeks. However, Samantha's medical history means the birth is not without challenges. Meanwhile, 33-year-old Sharon and 44-year-old Rav come to the hospital expecting their second child together, and Rhiana and her partner Lee hope for another textbook water birth for the arrival of their second son.



The Gadget Show, Friday, Channel 5, 7pm

THURSDAY
Crufts 2018 Channel 4, 8pm
 The world's biggest canine competition got under way today – Clare Balding and Alan Carr kicked off the Channel 4 coverage earlier this afternoon on Crufts Extra. Now Clare, who must surely be one of the hardest-working presenters on TV, is back with continued live coverage of the event, where judging includes the Working and Pastoral groups, and there are highlights of the Flyball and Agility competitions, with the latter celebrating its 40th year at the contest. Plus, there will also be dog stories (not necessarily of the shaggy variety) and chats with the guests.

FRIDAY
The Gadget Show Channel 5, 7pm
 New series. Oris Deley and George Barrat travel to Nevada to visit the

world's biggest consumer electronics show in Las Vegas. The events boasts upgraded drones, upgraded VR headsets, upgraded televisions and a stream of new robots to help around the house. Meanwhile, Jon Bentley joins Craig Charles in a 'versus' challenge to see if cutting-edge tech can put them on a par with professional decorators. Jon and Craig have access to the finest aids that tech has to offer, while the professionals have to rely on experience, skill and traditional tools.

Gardeners' World BBC2, 8.30pm
 New series. The imminent arrival of spring heralds a new gardening year at Longmeadow, as Monty Don reveals his new plans for the year and takes stock of any winter damage. As well as offering seasonal hints and tips, the presenter embarks on a mission to reduce the use of plastic in his garden, starting by exploring alternative containers to use for seed sowing. Adam Frost brings his design expertise to a tiny back yard to demonstrate that, with a bit of ingenuity, every inch of space can count. A Wolverhampton couple show off their inspirational garden, packed to bursting with surprises. Includes a weather forecast for gardeners.

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No.469

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

01.	19			18		21	23	8	8	16	2	19	21		
8	26	17	17				25		6			16		6	
	10			6	5	18	26	17	9			17	6	23	
12	24	4		6					23			12		9	
				3		6	22	6	3	12	14	5		25	
13	26	7		6	17		16			12		19		6	
14			14				14	2	19				17		23
20			15			20		1		9	8	24	6		8
3	21	23	19		6	8	26	5			21				
6			8				11					24	26	17	4
8	26	9				16	5	1	26	17	12			23	
23			8			6			16			21	23	15	24
17	26	24	23	17	14			1	S	12		2			24

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	U	A	J	L	G	B	V	P	N	X	C	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	Q	O	R	M	E	F	D	I	K	S	W	Z

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. They should show some interest at the way clerics are dressed (11)
9. What the gravestone reveals will produce a tear (3)
10. Cutting an earth defence needs an industrious worker (9)
11. He's one of a panel in any case (5)
13. He's unlikely to be in a class of his own (7)
14. One going in the vessel for a trip (6)
16. Sheep doctor going round old Ireland (6)
18. Asian country surrounding an American state (7)
19. Part of the reason I contrive a kind of boom (5)
20. Fractionally, it's on top (9)
21. The water regulator needs a light touch (3)
22. White cat is only an ounce! (4,7)
2. A rest in the afternoon, apparently (3)
3. One who finds things of consuming interest (5)
4. You'll find me involved with this as a doctrine (6)
5. Omit what was once indicated in a crossword, one hears! (7)
6. Somehow get in RADA as a serious actor (9)
7. Outstanding pieces for cinemagoers (11)
8. This may well detect a change of heart (11)
12. Golfer who makes regular deliveries! (9)
15. Bird pole with line underneath (7)
17. Action that changes the tablet (6)
19. Remove the covering from a lath (5)
21. Sailor found lying on the road (3)

Down

2. A rest in the afternoon, apparently (3)
3. One who finds things of consuming interest (5)
4. You'll find me involved with this as a doctrine (6)
5. Omit what was once indicated in a crossword, one hears! (7)
6. Somehow get in RADA as a serious actor (9)
7. Outstanding pieces for cinemagoers (11)
8. This may well detect a change of heart (11)
12. Golfer who makes regular deliveries! (9)
15. Bird pole with line underneath (7)
17. Action that changes the tablet (6)
19. Remove the covering from a lath (5)
21. Sailor found lying on the road (3)

[illegible]

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Concealment (11)
9. Sheep (3)
10. Warranty (9)
11. Foe (5)
13. Cost (7)
14. Accompany (6)
16. Bury (6)
18. Momentum (7)
19. Teacher (5)
20. Worldwide (9)
21. Choose (3)
22. Unceasingly (11)

Down

2. Employ (3)
3. Dwarf (5)
4. Effaced (6)
5. Whet (7)
6. Thorough (3-3-3)
7. Harmful (11)
8. Resound (11)
12. Exclusion (9)
15. Alleviate (7)
17. Against (6)
19. Claw (5)
21. Lubricate (3)

	2		3			7		
				2	5			9
1		8	9	6				3
	8					3	7	
	7	2		8		9	5	
		5	7				6	
	9			7	3			4
8			6	1				
		1				6	3	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	4	5	8	6	3	7	9	2
9	7	3	1	5	2	8	4	6
6	2	8	4	7	9	1	5	3
3	5	2	6	9	7	4	1	8
7	9	1	3	8	4	6	2	5
8	6	4	2	1	5	9	3	7
2	1	6	9	3	8	5	7	4
5	3	9	7	4	6	2	8	1
4	8	7	5	2	1	3	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Miss; 3 Handicap;
 9 Relates; 10 Amber; 11 Green fingers;
 13 Labial; 15 Statue; 17 Maiden voyage;
 20 Limbo; 21 Restive; 22 Tendered; 23 Left.
 Down: 1 Marigold; 2 Solve; 4 Assail; 5 Draught
 horse; 6 Cabaret; 7 Port; 8 Standard rose;
 12 Envy; 14 Boatman; 16 Entree; 18 Aside;
 19 Flat.
 QUICK - Across: 1 Envy; 3 Friction; 9 Fungoid;
 10 Upset; 11 Complication; 13 Climbs; 15 Writhe;
 17 Appreciation; 20 About; 21 Untwine;
 22 Steadily; 23 Dyes. Down: 1 Efficacy; 2 Venom;
 3 Revere; 4 Counterspart; 6 In short; 7 Note;
 8 Collaborated; 12 Lively; 14 Improve;
 16 Actual; 18 Icily; 19 Pass...

1. Which London boxer died after a title fight in 1994?
2. Which coin was first minted in Florence in 1252?
3. What is the official residence of the presidents of France?
4. Of what is copra the dried kernel?
5. Who, as minister of health, inaugurated the NHS?
6. At which racetrack were Ayrton Senna and

7. Which club overthrew the Girondists in the French Revolution?
8. What do we call the large wild cat *Acinonyx jubatus*?
9. How is Jerusalem's Western Wall also known?
10. Which order of knighthood's motto is *Honi soit qui mal y pense*?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Evita Peron; 2 Thrush; 3 The Rockies and the Appalachians; 4 78; 5 Oklahoma; 6 Kew Gardens; 7 Babylonian; 8 Gannet; 9 Agronomy; 10 USA.

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

465378
12678
3295

gives a Russian leader,
gives a second Russian leader,
gives a Russian river.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Oh Chiang Mai! It's hot in the city

Golden temples, bathtime with elephants, knocking up Tom Yum soup or wandering through a bustling night-time market, it's all part of a holiday in Thailand's second biggest city.

For those more used to Bangkok, Chiang Mai is a refreshing change. More relaxed, the emphasis on culture and exploration rather than the nightlife. The place just feels friendlier and more laid back. A lot of that is down to the almost legendary politeness of Thai people. The wai, the greeting with the slight bow and the hands pressed together, becomes infectious. Chiang Mai is in the north of Thailand, surrounded by mountain greenery. And, thanks to Qatar Airways, getting there is simple these days.

COMFORT

The airline runs regular flights to Doha, the capital of Qatar – and from there it offers a direct service straight to Chiang Mai. It is still around 16 hours of flight time, but Qatar Airways prides itself on comfort and service which eases the stresses and strain of a long journey.

The Shangri-La in Chiang Mai is part of a chain of luxury five-star hotels, with big comfortable rooms well equipped with air-conditioning – a must when the average temperatures are around 30C or more and the humidity is high, particularly at night.

My tour group and I got to experience the humid Thai evening when we headed out to explore Chiang Mai's Sunday night street market. Around 10,000 people regularly pack into the streets of the historic city centre to visit the hundreds of stalls selling handicrafts, most made by the local hill people. And then there is the street food. Our guide, Ms Rattiya ('Call me Yaya') explained that most Thais eat out in the evening. As in many well-developed Asian economies, people work

The Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple



long hours and, rather than cook when they get home, it is easier to go out. As a result, restaurant and street food is both reasonably priced and very good.

An early start the next morning saw our minibus climbing the 2,500ft to reach the Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple – almost.

The final 290 steps are up a Naga staircase, decorated with dragons to reach the temple itself and its huge Chedi, or golden spired pagoda, which contains partial relics of the Lord Buddha. It is a wonderful experience but visitors need to show some respect –

One of the many stalls offering street food



Thais take their Buddhist faith seriously. Meanwhile our non-stop schedule took us across the city to the Chiang Mai Thai Cookery School, where Chef Pon introduced us to the mysteries of Thai cuisine.

He showed us what to do, and we then got on with it, eating each dish as we finished cooking it. Those self-made dishes did mean that it was a struggle to find space for more food at the traditional Kantoke dinner that evening.

While we sat on cushions on the floor to dine – easier for some than others – the main entertainment of formal

dances showcased local culture.

And then for something completely different. The following day was a trip to the Thai Elephant Care Centre, at Mae Sa, near Mae Rim. Getting close to these magnificent animals was a lifetime experience.

It's been two decades since I was last in Thailand and I can't say I was impressed. Very touristy and a bit seedy.

Chiang Mai was a revelation. Relaxed but packed with things to see and do.

SIMON PENFOLD

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PROPERTY

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31
The Chronicle Thursday, March 1, 2018

Four-bedroomed former show home is new to market

Brand new to the property market, 16 Walton Heath on the Turnberry Estate in Bloxwich, Walsall, is a former show home.

On an impressive plot on this ever popular development, it is for sale through Goodchilds Estate Agents at £275,000.

It is positioned close to the train station and a short distance from the Walsall Academy and local shops and amenities.

The property is set in the corner of the cul-de-sac approached via a shared driveway with a walled front driveway, offering parking for several vehicles.

Inside, the property is presented to an excellent standard and offers modern living accommodation.

This briefly comprises a lounge, dining room, conservatory and a modern fitted kitchen with a separate utility room. To the first floor are four bedrooms. The impressive master bedroom has fitted wardrobes and a refitted en-suite shower room.

In addition there are two garages, a car port and a family friendly, easily maintained rear garden.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this stunning property.

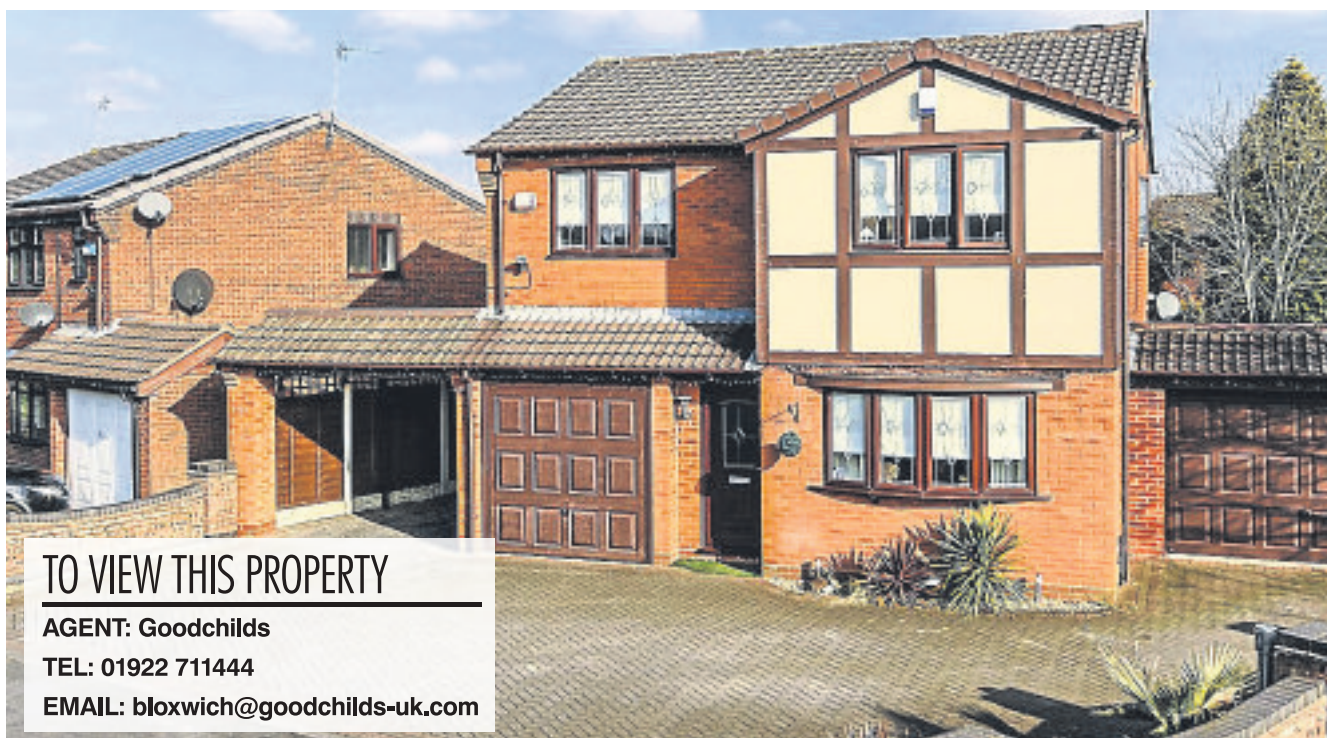
In more detail, the property is built to a modern and attractive design. Bordered by low walls, the frontage is mainly block paved, enabling ample parking to go alongside the car port and garages, together with a landscaped shrub border.

The lounge has attractive wood-effect flooring, a feature fireplace and a door through to a further reception room. The lounge also has ceiling corning, a ceiling rose and a dado rail. The conservatory has tiled flooring and a ceiling fan.

Goodchilds Estate Agents & Lettings is a relatively young but dynamic company, having been established since 1994 as Goodchilds Property Investments offering affordable rental properties into the residential market.

A spokesman said: "We are extremely proud to have established our business as both a leading estate and residential lettings agency built by consistently exceeding client expectations."

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KEY FEATURES

Former show home

Four bedrooms

Impressive plot

Close to train station

Two garages & carport



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PROPERTY



Recently-built house is very impressive throughout

This recently built and stunningly presented executive five-bedroom detached property which is situated in High Road, Willenhall, is on the market through L&S Prestige Estates priced at £350,000.

The generous living accommodation comprises an entrance porch, an inner hall, two reception rooms, a feature 37ft dining/kitchen and a guest WC.

To the first floor there are four double bedrooms, one with an en-

WILLENHALL
£350,000

suite and a family bathroom.

The master suite (currently used as cinema/games room) is situated on the second floor and offers generous proportions along with a further en-suite.

To the outside there is a block paved driveway to the fore allowing parking for several vehicles and a

private garden to the rear, having a purpose-built summer house/garden office with additional storage.

This property really does offer "the wow factor" and can only be fully appreciated by internal viewing!

It is ideally located for a range of good local amenities, a choice of popular local schools and fantastic transport links.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595.



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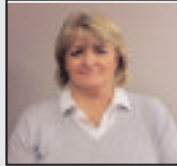
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*based on 2016 figures from Essential Information Group for number of lots sold for auctioneers based in





Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

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Energy Rating - D **NEW**

SSTC Similar Required

Somerfield Road Bloxwich

- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated & double glazed
- Newly Installed Kitchen/Diner, Front Lounge
- 3 Bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Rear Off road parking
- Viewing Essential
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

£120,000

Energy Rating - C **NEW**

Stanley Road Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- PVCu double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Lounge/diner, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

£115,000

Energy Rating - C **NEW**

Virola Court Bloxwich

- Spacious Penthouse Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Heated & Double Glazed
- Spacious lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- No Onward Chain

£115,000

Energy Rating - B **NEW**

Station View Walsall

- Immaculate apartment
- Ultra modern design and style
- Open plan lounge/dining kitchen with appliances
- 2 good bedrooms, bathroom/WC and en-suite
- Communal Grounds
- Viewing Essential
- ENERGY RATING B
- Communal Gardens

£99,950

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

SSTC Similar Required

Wood Lane Pelsall

- Semi-Detached House
- PVCu Double Glazing (where specified), Gas Central
- Front Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, Downstairs
- Conservatory
- Driveway, Rear Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- 3 Bedrooms
- Must Be Viewed

£145,000

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Field Road Bloxwich

- Extended End Town House
- Gas Central Heated & Double Glazed
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, Utility/Guests WC
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Garden

£140,000

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Energy Rating - B **NEW**

Corporation Street West Walsall

- First floor apartment
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Open plan lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- £250 contribution subject to preferred solicitors
- Must Be Viewed

£92,500

Energy Rating - TBC **NEW**

Victoria Avenue Bloxwich

- Gas Central Heated & Double Glazed
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Garden
- Must Be Viewed

£259,950

Energy Rating - B

Water Reed Grove Leamore

- Self contained 2nd floor apartment
- Centrally heated & PVCu Double Glazing
- lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Communal Gardens

£82,950

Park Home

Lodgefield Park Stafford

- Well Maintained Park Home
- Being for the Over 55'S
- Electric Heating, Hallway
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area
- 2 Double Bedrooms, En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Parking, Gardens

£100,000

Energy Rating - E

Broad Lane Bloxwich

- Victorian end town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Low maintenance garden
- Detached garage to rear

£115,000

Energy Rating - E **REDUCED**

Park Hall Close Walsall

- Top floor apartment
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage
- Must Be Viewed
- Communal Gardens

£124,000

Energy Rating - C

Odell Crescent Bloxwich

- Immaculately presented end terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Immaculate
- No Onward Chain

£135,000

Energy Rating - B

Penmire Grove Walsall

- Three Storey Town House
- PVCu double glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rear Lounge/Diner
- Three excellent sized Bedrooms
- (master with en-suite)
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

£179,995

Energy Rating - D

Selsdon Road Turnberry

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, conservatory
- 2 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Garage, carport
- Driveway
- Gardens

£189,950

Energy Rating - D

Long Lane Great Wyrley

- Traditional extended semi detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory, Utility Room
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom, Driveway, Small Garage Rear Garde
- No Onward Chain

£224,950

Energy Rating - C

Lydford Road Bloxwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Immaculately Presented
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu double glazing.
- 2 Bedrooms, Lounge,
- Breakfast kitchen, Conservatory
- Shower Room,
- Tandem Garage Driveway
- Gardens

£249,950

Energy Rating - C

Bealeys Close Bloxwich

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Small Exclusive Development
- Lounge, Dining Room, Study
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Conservatory
- Four Bedrooms,
- Ensuite Bathroom
- Family Bathroom,
- Detached Double Garage Driveway, Private Rear Garde

£320,000

Energy Rating - D

Paddock Gardens Walsall

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Garage
- Driveway
- Large Rear Garden
- 5 Bedrooms, Ensuite
- Must Be Viewed

£600,000

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BLOXWICH
THE MANSE, LICHFIELD

- Stunning Det.
- 3 Rec. Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room
- 4 Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- No Dss, No Pets
- No Smokers

\$1,500 PCM

SHELFIELD
FOUR CROSSES ROAD

- Det. Bungalow
- Hall, Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- 2 Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- No DSS or Smokers

\$795 PCM

GREAT WYRLEY
CHERINGTON DRIVE

- 3 Bed Detached
- Lounge/Diner
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Garage Converted
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- No Smokers, No DSS
- No Pets

\$795 PCM

WALSALL
HARDEN ROAD

- Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen, WC
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- No Pets or DSS
- No Smokers

\$595 PCM

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WOLVERHAMPTON
HEATH BARNES

- Stunning Conversion
- Semi Rural Location
- 3 Bedrooms
- Viewing Essential
- No Pets, No DSS
- No Smokers

\$1150 PCM

HEATH HAYES
CAPERCAILLIE DRIVE

- Link Detached
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Det. Garage
- No DSS, No Pets
- No Smokers

\$775 PCM

CANNOCK
HOLLYOAK WAY

- Modern 3 Storey
- Lounge, WC
- Kitchen/Diner
- Study, Utility
- Bed 1 En-Suite
- 3 Beds, Bathroom
- No Pets, No DSS
- No Smokers

\$700 PCM

CANNOCK
CAVERSHAM MEWS

- Coach Apartment
- Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Rear Garden
- 2 Parking Spaces
- No Pets, No DSS
- No Smokers

\$550 PCM

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NEW **GREAT WYRLEY**
LONG LANE

SSTC
Similar Required

- Traditional Home
- Lounge/Diner
- Extended Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Rear Garden
- Open Views
- Viewing Essential

\$139,950

NEW **BLOXWICH**
STANLEY STREET

- Semi Detached
- Hallway, WC
- Lounge Diner
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- No Chain

\$109,950

NEW **WALSALL**
CORPORATION STREET

- Modern Apartment
- First Floor
- Open Plan
- Kitchen/lounge
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Viewing

\$92,500

NEW **CLAYHANGER**
ALLERDALE ROAD

SSTC
Similar Required

- Modern Semi
- Hall, Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway

\$176,950



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NEW **FEATHERSTONE**
PENDERALL CLOSE

- Modern Starter Form
- Corner Plot
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom

\$140,000

NEW **WILLENHALL**
BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH

- Stunning Semi
- Through Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms
- EnSuite
- Viewing Essential

\$182,500

NEW **WILLENHALL**
SQUIRES GROVE

- Lovely Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Bathroom
- Garage
- Allocated Parking
- Viewing Essential

\$100,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW **BLOXWICH**
CHURCH PLACE

SSTC
Similar Required

- End Terraced
- Hall, WC
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Wet Room
- Rear Garden
- NO CHAIN

\$104,950

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BANKS STREET, WILLENHALL

Four Bedroom
Period Semi
Detached,
Three Storey
Accommodation,
Two Reception
Rooms, Impressive
Breakfast Kitchen,
Conservatory, Guest
WC, Cellar, C/
Heating & D/Glazing,
Private Rear Garden,

OIRO £225,000



SNEYD LANE, W'TON

Three Bedroom
Semi Detached,
26Ft Through
Lounge/Diner,
Impressive Fitted
Kitchen, Modern
Family Bathroom,
D/Glazing & C/
Heating, Front &
Rear Gardens,
Driveway & Garage,
Enviably Location

£230,000



KESTREL GROVE, WILLENHALL

Two Bedroom Semi,
Spacious Open Plan
Lounge/Kitchen,
Family bathroom, C/
Heating & D/Glazing,
Generous Driveway,
Great FTB, Potential
To Extend S.T.P.P.

OIEO £140,000



GLAISEDALE GR, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi,
Lounge With Open
Plan Staircase,
Fitted Kitchen,
Refitted Shower
Room, D/Glazing
& C/Heating, Off
Road Parking, Rear
Garden, Ideal FTB
Or BTL, Envious
Cul-De-Sac
Location

£129,995



MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

Spacious Two
Bedroom Semi,
Lounge, Fitted
Kitchen/Diner,
Modern Family
Bathroom, C/
Heating & D/Glazing,
Private Rear Garden,
ORP To Rear, No
Chain.

OIEO £120,000



KING EDWARD STREET, D'TON

Two Bedroom
Victorian Style Semi,
Two Reception
Rooms, Fitted
Kitchen, Ground
Floor Family
Bathroom, C/
Heating & D/Glazing,
Private Rear Garden,
Off Road Parking
Potential, Ideal F.T.B
Or B.T.L

OIEO £110,000



MALPAS WALK, W'TON

Three Bedroom
Mid Terrace
Townhouse, Lounge,
Fitted Kitchen/
Diner, Family
Bathroom, Guest
WC, D/Glazing & C/
Heating, Allocated
Parking, Great FTB
or BTL

OIEO £100,000



TAMESIDE CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Four Bed Mid Town
House, 50% Shared
Ownership, Ground
Floor Kitchen/
Diner, First Floor
Lounge, Master
Bed With En-Suite,
Three Second Floor
Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, Driveway
& Garage, D/Glazing
& C/Heating

50% £80,000, 100% £160,000



SCHOLARS HEATH

PRINCETHORPE RD, WILLENHALL

Three Storey
Modern Town
House, Three
Bedrooms,
Spacious Kitchen
Diner, En-Suite To
Two Bedrooms,
Integral Garage,
Viewing Advised!

£675 PCM



BEECHDALE

STEPHENSON AV, WALSALL

Two Bed Semi
Detached,
Two Reception
Rooms, Modern
Fitted Kitchen,
D/Glazing & C/
Heating, Generous
Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, Driveway

£495 PCM



MOSSLEY

ABBAY SQUARE, WALSALL

Two Bed Semi,
Lounge, Modern
Fitted Kitchen/
Diner, Generous
Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, D/
Glazing & C/
Heating, Off Road
Parking, Viewing
Recommended!

£500 PCM



DEANSFIELD

TYBURN ROAD, W'TON

Two Bed Second
Floor Flat, Spacious
Lounge, Fitted
Kitchen, Family
Bathroom, D/
Glazing & C/
Heating, Available
With Or Without A
Tenant, Great Buy
To Let Investment,
Viewing Advised!

OIEO £65,000



WILLENHALL

STAFFORD ST, WILLENHALL

Spacious Two Bed
Flat Being Set Over
Two Floors, Lounge,
Modern Fitted
Kitchen, Bathroom,
Two Generous
Double Bedrooms,
Double Glazing And
Gas Central Heating,
Close To Willenhall
Town Centre

£450 PCM

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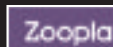
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The Chronicle Thursday, March 1, 2018



Broadway, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Communal Hallway with Lift
- Kitchen/Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space
- Gas Central Heating
- No DHSS
- Rating:88

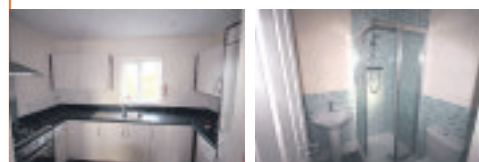
£595 PCM



Terret Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Lounge
- Ensuite
- Allocated Parking
- Communal Entrance
- Electric heating
- Secure Electric Gates
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating:54

£525 PCM



Merton Way, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- central heating
- double glazing
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-Suite
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted
- EPC 80

£525 PCM



- Broadway North, Walsall**
- Over 60 Retirement Apartment
 - New Build
 - Ground Floor
 - One Bedroom
 - Walk in Shower Room
 - Communal Lounge

£925 PCM



- Cresswell Crescent, Walsall**
- Three Bedroom Flat
 - Large Lounge
 - Large Kitchen/Diner
 - Family Bathroom
 - Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
 - Rating:54

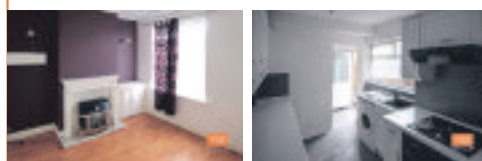
£450 PCM



Lavender Grove, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- EPC 52

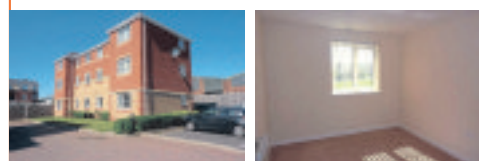
£500 PCM



Well Lane, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted
- EPC 60

£495 PCM



Thornbury Road, Walsall

- One Bedroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Open Plan Kitchen/Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Car Parking
- Electric Heating
- Close to Town Centre
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating: 69

£450 PCM



- Marton Court, High Street**
- One Bedroom
 - Bloxwich High Street
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Communal Grounds
 - Rating:68

£400 PCM



- The Exchange, Bloxwich**
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
 - Above Retail Premises
 - Lounge/Kitchen
 - Separate W.C.
 - Rating: 13
 - DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM



- Rowland Street, Walsall**
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terraced
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Galley Kitchen
 - Ground Floor Shower Room
 - DHSS Accepted
 - EPC 58



£475 PCM



- Marton Court, Bloxwich**
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
 - Lounge with French Doors
 - Bathroom with Shower
 - Kitchen
 - Double Glazing
 - EPC 71



£450 PCM



- Harrison Street, Bloxwich**
- Ground upper floor Apartment
 - One Bedroom
 - Kitchen
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted
 - Rating-7

£325 PCM



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Refined and practical family vehicle

By John Griffiths

There's a certain expectation when you get behind the wheel of a Skoda: you know it's going to be a good, dependable drive.

Industry pundits agree – the company has scooped a handful of awards already this year – and so do car buyers, with sales in January not only bucking the industry trend but actually rising by almost 11 per cent compared to the previous year.

No doubt new and improved models have played a part, like the award-winning seven-seat Kodiaq SUV launched last year.

So, with a seemingly insatiable demand for SUVs, it's no surprise that Skoda has followed up that car's success with its 'little' brother, the Karoq.

Not that it's exactly little: it's a mid-size SUV, a five-seater, which is actually larger (and with rather more conventional styling) than the Yeti which it replaces.

There's a good range of petrol and diesel engines, the option of a four wheel drive version, and high levels of equipment and technology across the range.

The test car was the top of the range 2.0 TDI in SE L trim, which at £27,795 isn't cheap but stands up well to comparison with any of its many competitors – including the top seller, the similar sized (but lower powered) Nissan Qashqai.

The four wheel drive system is only available with the 2.0 litre diesel, which comes with a choice of power outputs – 150 or 190PS.

There's also a 1.6 diesel option, and two turbo charged petrol engines of 1.5 and 1.0 litre capacity.

A touch of the 'off'road' button on the centre console sets the car up for making the most of the all-wheel drive system.

The 2.0TDI is a familiar engine, much appreciated by thousands of Octavia and Superb taxi drivers for its longevity and reliability. In the Karoq, it does the 0 to

62mph sprint in a very respectable 8.7 seconds and yet is capable of 56.5mpg in official tests, with a CO2 rating of 132g/km.

Official tests carried out in a laboratory and always optimistic, so I was gratified to average between 48 and 51 in real world driving.

Many private buyers, though, may be tempted by the 1.0 turbo petrol which starts at the cheaper end of the range – just under £21,000. Don't be put off by the lack of cubes, as it still turns out 115PS, is only slightly slower than the big diesel and returns very similar economy figures.

But it isn't so much the stark statistics which are so important as the manner in which the Karoq performs.

Precision

The Karoq is up there with the best in class in terms of refinement: quiet, smooth and with the dynamics of a competent hatchback. You get the benefits of the higher, SUV seating position and benefit, but without the downside of a rock 'n' roll ride, and a precision through the corners which will please the more enthusiastic driver.

It doesn't feel big or heavy: it feels light and agile, like a physically smaller, lighter car.

Inside, there's room for five adults with plenty of head and legroom all round. The 'VarioFlex' system gives you three rear seats which fold down individually, or can be removed altogether, and there are plenty of storage solutions dotted around the cabin. The test car also had aircraft-style tray tables to help keep those in the back occupied.

The boot is family friendly too with 588 litres of space rising to 1,810 litres with the rear seats folded – significantly more than the Yeti.

The test car, as the range flagship, was naturally very well equipped but even entry-level models come with alloy wheels, electric windows and mirrors, privacy glass, multi-function steering wheel, multiple airbags, one-touch cruise control and speed limiter, roof rails, rear



From the front the Karoq bears a clear resemblance to the large Kodiaq

parking sensors and front radar assist, with autonomous emergency braking if needed.

The SE L also came with alcantara upholstery, satnav with an eight-inch touch screen display offering voice control, and a comprehensive infotainment system including audio, connectivity and a Wi-Fi smartlink system.

Dual zone climate control, a driver fatigue centre, a full range of electronic safety systems, LED lights (including adaptive front lights), heated front seats, pedestrian alert, tyre pressure monitor and rear view camera are among

the other features. And, of course, a Skoda tradition – an umbrella tucked away under the passenger seat,

A heated windscreen and washer nozzles added £250 to the SE L's list price.

The Karoq is a worthy successor to the Yeti: bigger and with a rather more sleek and conventional look (but that's a matter of personal preference). From the front, there is a clear family resemblance to the large Kodiaq.

Whether or not you go for the flagship four wheel drive version, it is refined and practical family transport – with its excellent driving characteristics the icing on the cake.



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Gold Winner
SKODA Fabia



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Solutions Personal Contract Plan# Representative Example for ŠKODA FABIA Hatch 1.0 MPI Colour Edition subject to a 48 month, 6,000 miles per annum agreement

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£12,430.44	£0	48 months	£149	£2,000	£149	£2,149	£0
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	OPTION TO PURCHASE FEE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE BY CUSTOMER	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	REPRESENTATIVE APR	RATE OF INTEREST	EXCESS MILEAGE
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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA FABIA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 47.9 (5.9) to 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 64.2 (4.4) to 78.5 (3.6); Combined 57.6 (4.9) to 70.6 (4.0). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA FABIA range are 112 to 101 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
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- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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3 Home & Services

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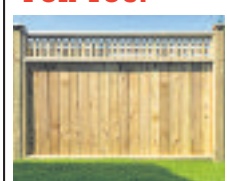
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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 7 Fotherley Brook Road Aldridge West Midlands WS9 9PD, who died on 27/01/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M6 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, to allow gantry inspection works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9.

The work will be carried out over one night between 21:30 hours and 05:30 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 6 March 2018. The Order will come into force on 2 March 2018.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority, ambulance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closure.

A diversion route via M6 Junction 10 will be signed.

For further information please contact Dennis Wheeler on 0300 470 3455.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

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The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. **Please note:** Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Hat's off – Vikram Solanki is a good friend



Rachael passing on her cricket tips to students



Barrie Richards – leaving Danescourt after 42 years



Lovely – Rachael Heyhoe Flint

One man went to mow – and stayed for 42 years

AFTER 42 years of preparing Wolverhampton's pitch for some of the most famous names in cricket, Barrie Richards' innings is over.

The Danescourt Road groundsman has seen stars such as Vikram Solanki, Moeen Ali, Wasim Jaffer and Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint all shine at the crease he has lovingly tendered for four decades.

Now the 65-year-old is set to embark on a new chapter after confirming his retirement. And he leaves with a secret. He isn't even a fan of cricket!

"I'm like the Wolves fan that is forced to go and watch the Albion every week!" Barrie joked.

"Growing up, I played rugby for Newport in Shropshire. I also played football. Cricket just wasn't a game that thrilled me. I just couldn't get excited by it. "But from the moment I started studying grass and green keeping at college I wanted to be a groundsman."

"Being outside is in my blood. My dad was a farmer on Lord Bradford's estate at Weston Park and I would often help him. And then I got the opportunity to work at Tipton Sports Club where I was tutored by head groundsman Bert Flack.

Perfect

"Then I heard about the opportunity at Wolverhampton Cricket Club and thought it would be perfect for me and my family."

Barrie recalls heading for his interview at Danescourt on a bus with his son Andy in tow in a carrycot.

"A member called Mollie Mackelworth came and picked us up," he said. "Then another member felt sorry for us so he gave us a lift back.

"But as soon as I arrived for the interview I knew the job would be perfect for me. There was a little bungalow down the road and they said that came with the position. My wife and I were wanting another child so it seemed ideal.

"The local schools were good. It was semi-countrified for the children. They could play by the pool and come home and put up tents. They had everything they needed."

Barrie and his wife Ann welcomed two daughters while living in the bungalow.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"I may not be the biggest cricket fan but the one thing I'm really going to miss is the camaraderie with the players. Some very special people have passed through this cricket club over the years."

And he quickly struck up a rapport with a number of high-profile players.

"I may not be the biggest cricket fan but the one thing I'm really going to miss is the camaraderie with the players," he said.

"Some very special people have passed through this cricket club over the years.

"Rachael Heyhoe Flint was one of the most lovely ladies you could ever meet. You could always have a laugh and a joke with her. She had a great sense of humour."

"Vikram Solanki is a good friend. Whenever he comes to the ground we always have a chat. I get on really well with Vikram.

"But they have all been great. I have not had any argument with any of them. Of course, they always praise the pitch when they have won. Then blame the pitch when they have lost! But you soon get used to that. But it was always a laugh coming in and having a beer with the players after a game."

A multiple winner of groundsman of the year, Barrie has some of the steadiest hands in the Birmingham League.

And he says hard work is the secret to keeping a pitch so immaculate for so long.

"It's a devotion not a job," he said. "At times it feels like you are working 24 hours a day, seven days week."

"When you have 25-acres to look after, there is always something to do.

"I developed skin cancer 12 years ago but I think you just have to put that down as an occupational hazard.

"This was me, though. I couldn't have worked in an office all day. I wanted to be outside with nature."

He has a number of highlights during his time at Wolverhampton. But he admits the team's victory in the National Knockout back in 1999 really stands out.

Barrie added: "A real highlight was winning the National Knockout in 1999. That was great.

"We had loads of coaches from all the local cricket clubs going down to Lord's.

"We even had our local rivals Walsall getting a coach together. It was a really big thing.

"Ann and I went down with the team. We stayed overnight and had lunch at Lord's and went out on the ground.

"It wasn't bad for someone who doesn't like cricket!"

To prove groundskeeping is in the family blood, his son looks after the fairways at nearby South Staffs Golf Club.

And it's spending time with his family that Barrie is most looking forward to in his retirement.

Support

"My daughter Julie lives in France so I'm looking forward to being able to go over there and stay with her," he said. "My wife Ann passed away fairly recently and we had hoped to see more of the countryside together. When she died, I just lost it and knew I had to retire.

"I have got five grandchildren and three step-grandchildren, they will keep me busy. I've had a full life really so it's time to slow down."

While he will be slowing down, Barrie will still be a regular feature at Danescourt.

"I'm still going to come and support the team and barrack them," he added.

"I've got so many friends here and I know I can always come back and have a laugh.

"I'll miss the players but I'm not going to miss running out to put the covers on when it rains. I'll have a big smile on my face when I see the new groundsman doing that."

Question of sport for Albion and Glassboys

LEGENDS from West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge FC will go head-to-head in a Question of Sport evening to raise money for a local charity.

The likes of Darren "Big Dave" Moore and Glassboys boss Gary Hackett will face off in a charity version of the TV sports quiz with all money raised for the Mary Stevens Hospice. It takes place on Thursday April 5 in the clubhouse at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground.

Alongside Moore, Team WBA will comprise Ian Hamilton, James Chambers, Mark Naylor and an as yet unnamed fifth player, while Team Stourbridge will feature Andy Pountney, Jon Ford, Matt Webb and Craig Slater alongside Hackett.

Organisers have also told supporters to expect "a couple of guests" and "rolling subs", as the players will also be taking time out to chat with fans on the night.

Tickets are £8 including a fish & chip supper. To book, visit marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/charity-question-sport or call 01384 377 778.

Legends on the ball for fundraising clash

ALBION heroes will take on a Glassboys Old Boys XI for the Jane Webb Memorial Trophy – with charity set to be the big winner on the day.

The game, on April 8, will be the third annual legends match between the two sides in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. It kicks off at the War Memorial Athletic Ground at 2.30pm. The first game ended in a 1-1 draw, while Baggies were victorious last year with a 6-4 scoreline.

Last year's gate surpassed 3,000, a sell-out for Stourbridge FC. The games have helped to raise more than £40,000 for the hospice over the last two years

The Jane Webb Memorial Trophy is named in honour of a hospice supporter who was the inspiration for the game.

Fundraisers at the hospice collaborate on the event each year with original organisers Matt Webb, a former Glassboys player and Mark Naylor, elite development goalkeeping coach at West Bromwich Albion.

Admission is £10, or free for under-15s.

Rhino has sights on powering to victory

RYAN Stewart Davies has promised something special when he fights at Walsall Town Hall this weekend. Davies, aged 25, is on the bill at BCB Promotions' 'The Class of 2018' on Saturday.

'Rhino' has been focusing on increasing his firepower and said he was looking to land a bomb on opponent Myles Vale. He said: "I have been working hard on my strength and power for this one. People come to boxing to see a knockout and I want to be able to do that here."

'The Class of 2018' sees Walsall super welterweight Levi Ferguson, Wolverhampton welterweight Gareth Gardner and Wolverhampton-based Pole Damian Kiwior, welterweight, all fight for the first time. They are joined by Walsall bantamweight Humza Ali, Kingswinford super welterweight Danny Ball and Wolverhampton cruiserweight Antony Woolery.

Tickets are £35 general admission (£40 on the door) and £60 (VIP Ring-side to include buffet and waitress service). Call 0845 111 2900 or see <https://iboxingtickets.com/>



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Danny at the double for Olympic

Lancaster 0 Rushall 2

TWO well-taken Danny Waldron goals in the first half were enough for Rushall Olympic, who returned home down the M6 triumphant, after they defeated Lancaster City.

Simeon Maye could have got the visitors off to a flier when he was through on goal down the middle on five minutes. The on-loan midfielder snatched at his shot and fired wide. Waldron scored the opener on 17 minutes, keeping his cool to beat one Lancaster defender before slotting past the helpless Elliot Wynne.

The hosts could have equalised on 22 minutes when a nod down fell to Glenn Steel 15 yards out. His half volley, however, was smashed just wide.

The lead was doubled on 25 minutes thanks to a move that started all the way from Joe Slinn in goal. The keeper played in Josh Webb, who found Gurjit Singh down the right. The Pies wide man slid in a perfectly-weighted through ball for Waldron, who finished past Wynne with a first-time effort.

A rare Slinn save denied Sam Bailey early in the second half after the Lancaster winger rifled towards goal from 25 yards. Slinn just got across to tip over.

Waldron nearly bagged his hat-trick after 60 minutes when he went on a marauding run from his own half before letting fly from the edge of the area. Unfortunately for the in-form striker, his effort went just over the bar.

Rushall had Josh Webb and AJ Adelekan to thank in the final few minutes as they both made excellent blocks.

Jack a perfect Fitz for Saddlers, as boss looks ahead

BOSS Jon Whitney wants to keep loanee Jack Fitzwater at Walsall as he works to build a defence that will benefit the club long term.

Fitzwater, a deadline day arrival from Albion, has impressed in five outings for the Saddlers and netted his first goal in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Blackburn.

Out of contract with the Baggies in the summer, it is not yet known if the 20-year-old will be offered a new deal at The Hawthorns. But even if he is, Whitney is refusing to rule out another loan.

And with fellow defenders Liam Kinsella, Nicky Devlin, Jon Guthrie, Kory Roberts and Luke Leahy already contracted for next year, the boss believes strong foundations are being laid.

"Jack is player we're looking at long term," Whitney said.

"He is out of contract in the summer. But we have also spoken about extending the loan into next season as well."

"I'd like to get the group together. It's also nice that in midfield and up front we have got Kieron (Morris), Ama (Bakayoko), George (Dobson) and Maz (Kouh-yar) all contracted."

'Cool Hand' plans another McLaren scalp

LUKE Paddock is convinced he will inflict another loss on the McLaren family later this month.

The Bloxwich fighter takes on the unbeaten Kieron McLaren for the vacant Midlands Area Super Lightweight Title on March 17.

The fight takes place in McLaren's hometown – at King's Hall, Stoke-on-Trent – and, after previously taking Kieron's cousin Josh's unbeaten record, Paddock is ready to do the same again and once again be crowned Midlands King.

In December 2014, Paddock and Josh McLaren met in Burslem for the same belt, and 'Cool Hand' delivered a career best performance to record a

Boxing

96-93 win on the judges' cards. Just over three years later, Paddock faces a second member of the McLaren clan, the undefeated prospect Kieron, who has a perfect 11 wins under his belt.

"I've beaten Josh and I'll beat Kieron," Paddock stressed. "He's a decent kid with an undefeated record but for me there are levels in boxing and I'm levels above. He's fought nobody with any kind of winning record. This is a massive step

up for him; like it was for Josh. He got found out and so will Kieron.

"I respect Kieron and he will be dangerous as he's not lost yet so will have that winning mentality but I'm confident I will become a two-time Midlands champion."

The show also features unbeaten Stoke trio Luke Caci, Nathan Heaney and Owen Jobburn plus debutant Ross Hollis and unbeaten duo – Burton's Leon Gower and Macclesfield's Jake Haigh.

Tickets are £35 for standard unreserved tickets or £60 VIP Ringside. They are available by calling the boxer direct or 07734 118041.

BRAVE FIGHT BY SADDLERS

IF you are going to lose a football match, the important thing is to go down fighting.

There have been times this season – against League One's biggest clubs – that Walsall have whimpered to the final whistle.

Defeats at Rotherham, Wigan and Blackburn were far too easy for the promotion-chasers.

But in this clash against Rovers, which came just 25 days after the teams last met, the Saddlers pushed one of the division's heavyweights all the way. Last month in Lancashire, Tony Mowbray's side cruised to victory. And for 45 minutes at the Banks's Stadium, it looked as though they would do so again.

Minus star man Bradley Dack, the visitors arrived with a clear game plan to play through target man Danny Graham. And the former Premier League hitman proved outstanding. Not only were Walsall unable to win the ball whenever he held it up, the 32-year-old also put his team in the ascendancy with two poacher's goals.

The first arrived in the 16th minute when he side-footed home an Adam Armstrong cross.

Graham then doubled his side's advantage when he nodded in Jack Payne's cushioned header following an Elliott Bennett centre.

Rovers could have extended their lead further before the break. A brilliant Payne ball split the Saddlers defence and sent Armstrong through on goal. But the Newcastle loanee then cannoned a strike against the crossbar.

At this stage, the game was in danger of becoming a procession. But Walsall gave themselves a lifeline on the stroke of half-time when George Dobson's corner was fired back across goal by Joe Edwards. The ball fell kindly for Jack Fitzwater and he emphatically fired into the roof of the net. And following the restart, the Saddlers emerged a side transformed.

Suddenly, they were team taking the game by



Loanee Jack Fitzwater, hidden behind a Rovers player, scores to give Walsall a lifeline against Blackburn

the scruff of the neck, winning second balls and dominating possession. And they created a number of good chances to grab an equaliser. Erhun Oztumer saw a free-kick from 20 yards well tipped over by David Raya.

An exquisite Dobson pass then put substitute Julien Ngoy through on goal but the Spanish keeper brilliantly flung himself at the striker's feet to block. Moments later Dobson again played in Ngoy only for the Belgian's touch to let him

down. It seemed from minute 65 to 80 in particular – and with the Banks's crowd behind them – Walsall would go on to grab an equaliser. But Mowbray then switched to a back three and in doing so shored up his defence.

It meant the team many expect to win the league were able to hold on for all three points.

The Saddlers showed Blackburn too much respect in the opening 45 minutes. Yet they performed excellently after the break.

Scholars just Lov-att after Jake scores

Loughborough 1 Chasetown 2

JAKE Lovatt struck in the dying seconds to hand Chasetown a dramatic Evo-Stik South victory.

A quiet game sprang to life towards the end of the first half.

In the 39th minute George Cater forced the first save from James Martin with a volley from around the penalty spot.

Chasetown thought they had taken the lead in the 41st minute.

Danny Cocks twisted and turned inside the box and drilled past Martin only for the assistant referee to controversially adjudge a Scholars player was in an offside position.

Finally the opening goal came 10 minutes into the second half.

Superb work from Cater opened up the home defence and Lovatt dived in to head home the cutback.

Dynamo were reduced to 10 men when former Scholar Louis Keenan was sent off for a second yellow card for a foul on scorer Lovatt.

But the hosts levelled when they were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box and Daniel Gordon curled a low shot past Curtis Pond.

Chasetown were the stronger team as the Leicestershire side time wasted to protect the shirt.

The Scholars could not find a way through until stoppage time when Martin spilled a shot and Lovatt pounced to grab the winner.

Bloxwich hold off Coalville for victory

Coalville 1 Bloxwich Men's First XI 3 BLOXWICH earned a well deserved three points on their travels to Coalville on Saturday in a hard fought encounter.

The visitors found themselves trailing early on in the match, but kept their composure with Gary Williams scoring from the break down of a short corner routine. Then, Liam Brazier, making a welcome return to the First XI, scored to give Bloxwich the lead.

In the second half, Bloxwich weathered a storm of Coalville attacks, short corners and defended with great resilience. Then Brazier got his second of the game to give Bloxwich the three points.

*** The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, March 1, 2018

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The Evolution of Bulldog Appliances

The family run company who pride themselves on first class customer service offer up to 50% off retail prices on a wide range of appliances with only minor cosmetic damage.

"We have a commitment to sourcing good quality products and providing great customer service," says Wayne of West Midlands based Bulldog Appliances. "Speaking directly to suppliers means we get the widest choice of stock and the best prices, which we can then pass onto our customers." Whether you are looking for an American fridge

freezer or a traditional range cooker, there is something to suit a variety of needs. Carrying well known brands like Hotpoint, Indesit, Hoover, Russell Hobbs and Samsung, the local company works with trusted companies to ensure high quality goods.

"From the very beginning we focused on balancing quality and cost for our customers, and this remains as important today. Speaking to customers, we found that they were often daunted by the prospect of researching and purchasing appliances we wanted to simplify that process." Wayne says.

**WE STOCK: AMERICAN FRIDGE FREEZERS * WASHING MACHINES * RANGE COOKERS
* FRIDGE FREEZERS * TUMBLE DRYERS * INTEGRATED APPLIANCES * CHEST FREEZERS**

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A handy online guide helps customers to decipher which product is the right fit,

along with a brand directory covering all products in stock.

Stocking a range of over 4,000 brand new and graded products in their 20,000 square foot warehouse, the independent business also offer FREE fast delivery and a minimum of 12 months parts and labour warranty

**WE STOCK: AMERICAN FRIDGE FREEZERS * WASHING MACHINES * RANGE COOKERS
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